



**LAND CRUISE**  
**FOUR TO BE WON**

**ZOOS OF SHAME**  
 Britain fights for Europe's animals

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**THE EARL ENDORSE**

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PAGE 18

**THE REAL OSCAR WINNERS**  
 Giles Whittell on presents for presenters

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# Yeltsin sacks all his ministers

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN stunned Russia yesterday by dismissing his entire Government and promising to appoint a more energetic team to push through reforms in his last two years in office.

The move caused momentary panic in Russia and abroad, until Mr Yeltsin appeared on television to thank his long-serving Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin for his loyal service, and to emphasise that he wanted a more vigorous approach to reform.

"The Government has clearly been lacking dynamism and initiative, new views and fresh approaches and ideas," Mr Yeltsin said, acknowledging that life had not improved for many Russians since the collapse of communism seven

that he was positioning himself to succeed Mr Yeltsin, may ultimately have led to his downfall.

Although Mr Yeltsin suggested that his outgoing premier wanted to begin work on his own presidential campaign, Mr Chernomyrdin's political career appeared to be finished, with his powerbase effectively swept away.

Anatoli Kulikov, the Minister of the Interior who has been blamed for much of the bloody war in Chechnya, and Anatoli Chubais, the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for economic reform, were also named as ministers who would not be returning to cabinet posts.

However, other key figures including Boris Nemtsov, the deputy Prime Minister, Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, and Igor Sergeev, the Defence Minister, are expected to be included in the new cabinet after a new Prime Minister is named within the next two weeks.

In the meantime, a young technocrat with only a year's experience in government has been named as acting Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, 35, a little-known former oil refinery boss, has been catapulted from Energy Minister in what is expected to be a stopgap measure.

But while he is in office he is effectively Russia's second-in-command. Under the country's constitution, the Prime Minister takes over the duties of the President, including control of the country's huge nuclear arsenal, in the event that the head of state dies or is incapacitated.

Mr Kiriyenko said: "The offer came as a complete surprise. I learnt about it only this morning."

The real contenders are likely to include a wide selection of politicians who will be chosen for their abilities not only to run the Government, but also to negotiate vital reforms through the hostile opposition-controlled Duma, the lower house of Parliament.

Grigori Yavlinsky, the head of the liberal Yabloko movement, declared himself a candidate for the job. Other hopefuls include Mr Nemtsov, Yuri Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow, Igor Stroyev, the speaker of the Federation Council, and regional leaders such as Dmitri Aysitkov from Saratov and Konstantin Titov from Samara.

With only two years to go before the presidential elections, whoever succeeds will automatically become a strong challenger for the Kremlin leadership. However, any new candidate should be careful not to show too much interest in Mr Yeltsin's job before his term expires, or he may share the fate of Mr Chernomyrdin.

Yeltsin's choice, page 12  
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 Leading article, page 19



years ago. "Without those a powerful upsurge in the economy is just impossible."

Mr Yeltsin's dismissal of all 29 ministers was seen partly as a genuine attempt to revitalise Russia's sluggish reform process, and partly as a ploy to re-establish himself as the unchallenged ruler. The Russian leader has a taste for the unpredictable and he has frequently resorted to sacking unpopular ministers to assert his power and win populist support.

The main casualty yesterday was Mr Chernomyrdin, who over five years had earned a reputation as a loyal and dependable deputy. In the West he was regarded as a solid alternative to the Russian leader, and that impression, combined with evidence



President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, wearing Kente cloths that were a gift from President Rawlings of Ghana, left, on the first leg of a six-nation African tour

## Into Africa: the ultimate glad-hander

BY TOM RHODES WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT

IT is impossible to ignore the arrival of the President of the United States, but in Africa yesterday some of the continent's poorest people must have wondered for a moment whether Bill Clinton was a visiting Pharaoh from their past.

Accompanied by an official delegation of 130, including his wife, Hillary, three Cabinet members and numerous distinguished black Americans — including the President's special envoy to Africa, the Rev Jesse Jackson, all that seemed absent from President Clinton's vast entourage were women scattering flowers before him as he walked.

Accra, the capital of Ghana, was teeming with Secret Service agents, advance staff, communications specialists and, of course, more than 200 journalists who have paid \$13,000 each for the privilege of joining an 11-day, six-nation tour of Africa, the longest by any sitting President and one that last night took Mr Clinton to Uganda. Tonight these 500 disciples will have progressed to Rwanda; they will then move on to South Africa, Botswana and finally Senegal.

The White House remained mute about overall costs but the visit is certain to cost millions of dollars. Certainly, no expense has been spared to ensure that the leader of the free world can visit such small developing nations and still remain in touch with affairs both at home and abroad.

Employing the communications of Air Force One and other state-of-the-art technology, the President and Samuel Berger, his National Security Adviser, were briefed hourly on the situation in Moscow yesterday.

And the President aims to use the trip to broadcast various new programmes to his domestic audience while attempting at the same time to dodge the continuing saga of his alleged infidelities.

For Mrs Clinton it is a return trip. Last year, she and her daughter, Chelsea, visited six African countries, including three of those on the current itinerary. For the President — a man initially irked by foreign policy duties — it is a much-relished opportunity to experience different cultures and soak up new information.

The African sojourn, the longest presidential visit since Ronald Reagan toured Europe in the spring of 1985, was said

by aides to have been driven by Mr Clinton's personal desire to make what he has called the "first serious trip to Africa" of any American leader.

His aides are also well aware that Mr Clinton can be assured of a personal boost at home by the wall-to-wall television coverage of ecstatic crowds lining the routes of his motorcade.

Even so, the visitors — and particularly the President — must have been perplexed yesterday by the scenes they encountered. The rigours of American politics had scarcely prepared Mr Clinton for the reality of democracy African-style as he ventured for the first time into a continent that is so very different from his own.

Shaking hands and greeting the people has always been a

presidential necessity of which Mr Clinton has been justly proud. But it is deemed a security hazard at the best of times, and it was never more so than yesterday in Independence Square, the capital's centre-piece, where hundreds of thousands of thrusting hands, each desperate to touch but a thread of his sombre suit, finally proved too much even for the ultimate glad-hander.

Several women lay crushed and injured by a surging mass that threatened to knock down the barriers and overwhelm Mr Clinton. The President's face, already reddened by the sun, adopted a strange purple hue and as Secret Service agents rushed to his assistance he was forced to cry "Back up, back up."

Trade not aid, page 11

### IN BRIEF

#### NCP founders share £580m

The two founders of the NCP car park empire will share £580 million after agreeing to sell to an American company.

Centant Corporation has agreed to pay £801 million for National Parking Corporation, the parent company of NCP, in which Ronald Hobson and Sir Donald Gosling, and their family trusts have a 72.5 per cent interest. Page 27

#### Support for BBC lottery show

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC governors, gave his full backing to a National Lottery game show that is said to breach BBC guidelines by promoting a commercial product.

He has written to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, denying that the show, which centres on a £2 scratchcard, is unsuitable for a public service broadcaster. Page 4

#### New watchdog for the police

Inquiries into serious allegations against police officers could be taken away from forces and carried out by independent investigators, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said.

Investigators could be former military officers, Customs officials, lawyers, accountants or specialist investigation units. Page 2

#### 'Casablanca' to be reworked

An American writer has produced a prequel and a sequel to *Casablanca*, the classic film starring Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart.

Nancy Wiese, rights director at Warner Books, says Michael Walsh "has developed the characters beautifully". Page 5

## France faces legal action over World Cup tickets

BY CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND ADRIAN LEE

THE French organisers of the World Cup face a multimillion pound fine after rejecting a compromise which would have freed more tickets for England football supporters.

The European Commission said yesterday that it was beginning legal action for discrimination against non-French residents.

Karel van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, said that the organisers were abusing their dominant position in allocating the 2.5 million tickets in such a way that six out of ten will go to French supporters.

The organising committee had earlier told Mr van Miert that his proposal that all 111,000 unsold tickets should go to foreign fans was unacceptable. They were prepared to offer only 50,000 to other national federations.

Marie-George Buffet, the French Sports Minister, said that it was "quite unacceptable" that more should go abroad, since French taxpayers

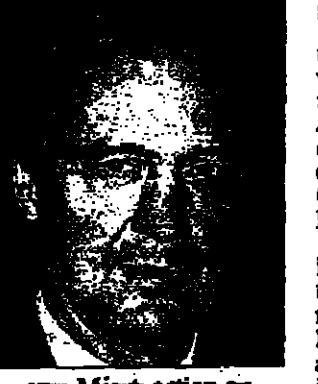
had partly funded the event. But if the organisers do not climb down within three weeks, the Commission can impose a fine of 10 per cent of the total revenue for the competition.

At present the English Football Association will receive fewer than 9,000 tickets — or 8 per cent of the total — for three group matches, while 20 per cent will go to sponsors and corporate hospitality clients. Associations from Belgium, Germany, Scotland, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Japan have also complained.

The French say the tournament, which starts in June, is a victim of its own success. There have been 20 million requests for tickets, but there are far fewer available than there were in America four years ago, because the French grounds are much smaller.

The FA said that it regretted the need for legal action and would continue its own efforts to secure more tickets. But Alison Pilling, international officer of the Football Supporters Association, said that the Commission had acted too late.

"They knew about this problem last June. It is unlikely that this will result in any more tickets for England fans, but I do hope the organisers are taken to court as a warning to future World Cup organisers."



## So near, yet so far away from the ideal parking slot

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

IN supermarket car parks the unimaginative do best, according to an analysis by two American engineers.

Volvo drivers who take the first lane available and then park in the first unoccupied space do better than go-getters in BMWs who race up and down trying to find the perfect slot.

On average, a driver using

the dull but effective method takes 61 seconds in the search for a space, while the more aggressive motorist takes 71 seconds.

The analysis from Dr Richard Casady of Mississippi State University and Dr John Kolon of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, appears in *Transportation Science*. They used mathematics, not observation of individual drivers, to work out the best strategy.

They assumed a rectangular car park with entrances and exits at each corner, and seven rows running up and down, each of them one-way. There were 72 spaces in each row. While no real car park may be exactly like this, the general principles probably apply to many car parks.

The two engineers took into account three measures of what makes a good parking space: total walking distance from the space to the supermarket front door, the time

taken to locate the space and the total time, found by adding the two together.

The assumption was made that drivers can spot a space in a lane as soon as they enter it and that the go-getting types would rather go into another lane in search of a place closer to their destination if there are no good places in the first lane they try.

The actual times taken depend on the entrance chosen and the lane selected. But the

conclusion is that — unless walking is a particular problem — it makes sense to choose the first lane and the first available slot, even if it seems a long walk to the door.

The analysis could be incorporated into driver information systems which would give drivers real-time information as they parked, the authors suggest. More realistically, they say, it could be used to evaluate car park design.

facts

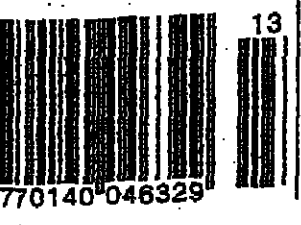
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PEOPLE LIFE





# Passionate fantasies lose their warmth in front of the Brazier

Julian Brazier (C. Canterbury) intervened on a question yesterday about violence against women. So did Lorna Fitzsimons (Lab, Rochdale) whose concern was impassioned. Trim Ms Fitzsimons is 30. If Captain Brazier had responded "Cor! Wouldn't mind giving you one!" pandemonium would have broken out among new Labour's new women MPs. They would have pointed to the outrageous remark as further evidence of male Tory sexism.

But then they might not have read Ms Fitzsimons's interview last year in the *News of the World*. Under the headline "I may be an MP but I need more sex", the MP for Rochdale was quoted describing herself as "an outrageous flirt" who is "wicked to some of the boys".

"Generally, if I want to go to bed with somebody, I tell them," she continued — to the *News of the World*, not to poor Captain Brazier, who looks as though, solicited by a lady as determined as Lorna Fitzsimons he might pass out. "I realise I can't do all the

things I used to. I can't have a *fresco* sex or three in a bed... not that I did."

Captain Brazier, so far as he has thought about *al fresco* sex at all, will have either confused *al fresco* with *al dente* or (more likely) supposed it involved making love up against a painted wall in an Italian church.

Reluctant to get his love-making muddled with religious art, still less with teeth, the Member for Canterbury would recoil from Ms Fitzsimons's bold proposal even if it were only in a



As for the idea of three, we doubt whether the Captain could get his mind round such a proposal, let alone agree to it. Three in a bed for Brazier would involve a rather woe-begone teddy bear, relic of young Julian's nursery days — and with strictly observer status. Or he might cover the teddy's eyes.

will be bewilderment in Rochdale not I suspect, at their new Member's wickedness to the boys — but at her choice of boys to be wicked to. However, Captain Brazier is spared.

Not that Ms Fitzsimons was offered much choice yesterday at Questions to the Social Security Secretary. On parade for the last time before ministers unveil Labour's bold new welfare revolution on Thursday were the Secretary of State, Harriet Harman, and Mr Blair's sinister hitman, Frank Field, Minister in charge of "thinking the unthinkable".

On Thursday, having thought the unthinkable, Mr Field has promised to say the unsayable. This statement will be the long-awaited unveiling of the Government's new philosophical map to the landscape of 21st-century welfare. Yesterday was Mr Blair's MPs' last opportunity to advise, to question, to encourage, or to warn.

Twenty-two Labour backbenchers turned up, less than one tenth of those who strike ministers' and bag-carriers, were free to stand or stay away. Where were the others? Composing Early-Day Motions regretting the BBC's reduced coverage of Parliament? A "doughnut" is that little knot of friendly MPs who ring a minister for the TV cameras. In the Parliament of New Britain, "quorum" must be redefined as "enough for a doughnut".

# Outside agencies may investigate police complaints

INQUIRIES into serious allegations against police officers could be taken away from forces and carried out by independent investigators, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said yesterday.

Stewart Tendler reports on Home Secretary's plans to rid forces of a 'corrosive minority'

dealt with robustly. Other measures in the package include a fast track system to get rid of officers caught re-handling committing offences, an end to the right of silence during internal investigations, and a reduction in the burden of proof. Even when officers were acquitted in court, they would face discipline hearings for the offences.



Mo Mowlam meeting businessmen in Belfast yesterday as the talks resumed

# Sinn Fein returns as talks resume

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE final three-week push for a new political settlement in Northern Ireland got under way at Stormont yesterday with no sign of compromise in sight.

Ulster Unionists marked Sinn Fein's return following its suspension for two IRA murders by calling on Ronnie Flanagan, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, to state publicly whether the IRA was involved in subsequent bombings and the Armagh mortar attack.

July — but only to picket them. He and two dozen banner-waving followers said the talks were nearing a "great betrayal", denounced Mr Trimble for sitting at the same table as Sinn Fein and vowed to use the proposed assembly to wreck any new cross-border bodies.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, called on Tony Blair to overrule Unionist intransigence. "David Trimble is a learner-driver who can't be left in the driving seat. Mr Blair has to drive change forward on every issue that has been mapped out for change," he said.

Investigators could be former military officers, Customs officials, lawyers, accountants or specialist investigation units in government departments such as the Post Office. They would be appointed by the Police Complaints Authority and might also include retired detectives. The PCA could also have a "cadre of independent investigators" at its disposal for exceptional cases.

The proposal will be seen as the first move towards a completely independent system, rather than allowing police forces to investigate complaints themselves. Mr Straw pointed out that the new Criminal Cases Review Commission already used independent investigators. The changes will, however, require new legislation and funding, which would take some time to arrange.

would allow chief constables to cut out the "corrosive minority" of crooked officers in the police service.

The package follows a highly critical report by the Commons select committee on home affairs into police complaints and discipline systems. Yesterday Mr Straw made it clear the Government will accept many of the committee's reforms.

Officers who tried to claim they were sick to avoid investigation could be dealt with in their absence. Mr Straw said he was also insisting that he would take firm action against officers convicted of criminal offences who later claimed pensions. All police authorities will have to pass requests for pensions to the Home Office, and former officers could lose up to 75 per cent of their pensions.

# Maze murderers foil investigation

By OUR CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE police may never be able to prove which of the 31 loyalist Volunteer Force inmates in the Maze prison murdered David Keys in his cell last week, security sources said yesterday.

It is believed at least 20 LVF members smeared his blood on their clothes in order to protect his killers. "There was considerable cross-contamination," said one official.

anticipated in the near future. "I would not anticipate making any breakthrough," said the source.

Keys was one of four men charged with the murders of lifelong friends Philip Allen and Damien Trainor in the County Armagh village of Poyntzpass on March 3. The inmates, who normally enjoy a free run of their two wings in H-Block 6, are now locked in their cells, and four of them have gone on hunger strike in protest. In a statement yesterday the LVF said one more prisoner would join the strike, each day, and again threatened "direct action" against prison officials. It

protested that republican prisoners had not been locked in their cells following the murder in the Maze of loyalist Billy Wright's murder.

Prison Service officials said they were not yet treating the hunger strike very seriously and noted the inmates were still taking lipids. Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons in England and Wales, yesterday began a full-scale inspection of the Maze, ordered after December's escape of a republican terrorist dressed in women's clothes, and the killing of Wright, the LVF leader, by republican inmates.

Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party, resisted Unionist pressure for a UUP-SDLP agreement that left Sinn Fein out.

"We have to get an agreement between Unionism and nationalism," he said. "We are not going to allow ourselves to become the anvil on which both the UUP and Sinn Fein work out their particular dislikes of each other."

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said she remained "stubbornly optimistic" that an agreement could be reached. She talked of an "intensification" of the talks, with "longer days and more days". The format of the conference room has been altered to make space for screened-off areas where the participants can have private chats.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, visited the talks in the morning to talk about the new Welsh assembly.

# Blair tells French to take third way

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR will today challenge the French and other European governments to adopt his vision of the "third way" in their approach to the economy, jobs, social policy and the future of the European Union.

In an address in French to the National Assembly in Paris, the Prime Minister will call for the abandonment of old ideologies as governments respond to a rapidly changing world. There is no such thing as Left or Right in economic management any more, only good or bad, he will say.

the address was neither intended to be a lecture to the French socialists nor a criticism of their policies, and was as much about Britain. It was also denied that a fresh call for flexible labour markets was an attack on the French Government's backing for a 35-hour working week.

The speech was billed in advance last night by Downing Street as "the most complete statement of the Prime Minister's personal creed since the election".

# Minister caught writing questions for tame MPs

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A GOVERNMENT Minister is facing embarrassment in the Commons after it was discovered he was writing his own questions for tame Labour MPs to fire at him at the dispatch box.

Nigel Griffiths, a junior minister at the Department of Trade and Industry, tries to tempt the MPs to accept his wording with the prospect of good coverage in their local newspapers.

was a draft question to Jackie Lawrence, the MP for Preseli Pembrokeshire, which urged her to table a question on carbon monoxide poisoning. Mr Griffiths suggested the precise wording at the bottom of the letter. "I can assure you a helpful response which your local paper may be interested in when I respond to you on the floor of the House of Commons on April 2," he wrote.

In the past, ministers' special aides have selected MPs to table helpful questions during question time to deflect the Opposition fire. But it is a subtle operation conducted in darkened corridors and in the Commons smoking room. Few ministers have ever been exposed writing down the questions themselves.



Nigel Griffiths "caught in the act"

and Industry team issued every MP last month for question time with a 15-page briefing note dossier. Many of the MPs, who asked the questions, read them straight from the briefing note crib sheet.

A copy of the Griffiths letter has been sent to the Speaker, Betty Boothroy, who deprecates such techniques. Mr Redwood said: "Nigel Griffiths has been caught in the act, so much for spontaneity. So much for the cut and thrust of debate. It makes the whole procedure a farce. I suppose it shows we have got them, razed."

# Lawyer and prisons chief to meet on abuse claim

By RICHARD FORD AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE senior prison governor investigating claims of abuse in Wormwood Scrubs jail is to meet the solicitor representing eight inmates at the centre of the allegations today.

Peter Atherton will request the names of the eight inmates whose allegations of mistreatment and assault were outlined in a dossier handed to the Chief Inspector of Prisons last week.

Yesterday members of the inquiry team removed papers, medical reports and forms on cell restraints used when inmates are in the care and control unit at the West London jail.

Daniel Machover, has refused to name the eight, but says he has had constructive dialogue with the inquiry team.

# Closure of secure units 'no threat'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Government moved swiftly yesterday to reassure the public that people would not be put at risk by the closure of three top-security mental hospitals, housing some of the country's most dangerous criminals.

But the health department admitted that for too long Rampton, Broadmoor and Ashworth hospitals had been neglected and not effectively controlled.

An internal departmental inquiry into the future of the hospitals has recommended they be closed and replaced by up to eight smaller secure units.

health secretary, said: "There is no reason for the public to be alarmed. These special high security hospitals are there to protect the public."

He said that no decision had been made on the future of the hospitals. "The decision will be made on the basis that the public must be safe and secure. Whatever the experts advise, safety will be our main consideration."

A statement from the health department distanced Labour ministers from the review of the hospitals. It pointed out that the study had been commissioned by the previous government and that ministers did not feel themselves bound by its findings. The future of the three hospitals is being considered as part of a wider review of the mental health treatment in the country.

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# Anatomy official saw that artwork was cast of head

Pictures at a macabre exhibition aroused

suspicious over sculptures, reports Kathryn Knight

AN ARTIST paid a technician to help him smuggle heads, limbs and torsos from an anatomy laboratory to use as models for his sculptures, a court was told yesterday.

Anthony-Noel Kelly and Niel Lindsay smuggled the human remains from the Royal College of Surgeons late at night and later buried them on his father's estate, leaving some at a friend's flat. Their ruse was discovered after a suspicious government inspector saw photographs of Mr Kelly's first exhibition in a newspaper article and realised only real anatomical remains could have been used. He contacted police and the pair were both arrested last year.

Mr Kelly, 42, a teacher at the Prince of Wales Architectural Institute, and Mr Lindsay, 25, both deny theft between June 1991 and November 1994. Mr Kelly denies a further count of handling stolen goods.

Before the case was opened, Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, warned the jury they would be listening to a very unusual

theft case and that some of the photographs they would be viewing would be particularly disturbing.

Andrew Campbell-Titch, for the prosecution, said the two-week trial at Southwark Crown Court was "in essence a simple case, although undoubtedly the undisputed facts are exceptional, unusual and macabre".

He said Dr Laurence Martin, HM Inspector of Anatomy, had seen a photograph in a Sunday newspaper article featuring

Mr Kelly's first art exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Fair in Islington last year. The photos showed the cast of a human head. "He realised immediately that the principal work of art could only have been cast from parts of a dead body," Mr Campbell-Titch said.

"He also realised that in the normal course of events no one should have such things outside of a licensed medical institute."

The concerned inspector contacted all the medical institutes around the country asking them if they were missing any body parts. When they replied that they were not, he contacted police, whose subsequent investigation led them to home of Mr Kelly in Clapham, south London.

The jury were shown a series of photographs taken in Mr Kelly's house, showing moulds of human heads and feet and other body parts.

Detectives had not at first known what they were dealing with, but were keen to know where the original parts were buried. Mr Kelly was

arrested and during his first interview said he had buried a series of parts in the basement storeroom, Mr Campbell-Titch said. Over the next two days, police recovered various rotting remains from the family estate, including a human head and torso, various limbs and parts

of limbs and further human anatomical remains. At the Brixton address they found black binliners and boxes containing more human remains, including parts of a human forearm in a Tupperware box. Mr Kelly had initially attempted to protect Mr Lindsay but his

diary contained continual references to an "NL" and "without trouble" the police found Mr Lindsay, who had left the Royal College in 1994, and arrested him on April 7. During interviews it emerged that the background to the case dated from 1993, when Mr Kelly gained permission

to sketch some of the specimens at the RCS. Through his visits he became friendly with Mr Lindsay, a former butcher and abattoir worker who had worked as a laboratory assistant who had worked there for a number of years. The trial continues.



Anthony-Noel Kelly and one of his sculptures, modelled from a dead human head. He denies theft and handling stolen goods



Neil Lindsay, accused of stealing parts

## Students join queue for death master class

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE first masters degree in death is to begin this year and would-be students are already queuing to join the course.

Reading University says that the decision to offer a masters in "Death and Society" came after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The eulogistic debate and the continuing prevalence of genocide in international conflicts made death and related subjects "the most talked-of topics in the modern world".

The course is not intended to help those suffering from bereavement, however, and course literature advises that it may even exacerbate any pre-existing personal distress. "Those who have recently suffered a major bereavement might want to consider postponing applying," the university advises.

The one-year full-time degree, which can be taken over two years part-time, includes modules on "the modern way of death", "disposal of the dead in the modern West", "the sociology of the afterlife" and "viewing the body in 17th-century England".

Tony Walter, sociology reader and course director, who has illustrated the university Web page on the course with a vivid graphic of a running skeleton, said that Reading had "a level of international excellence in this area over a number of different departments".

The archaeology department is known internationally for its work on burial archaeology, and we have one of the world's leading experts on death in Ancient Greece. In addition, Dr Ralph Houllbrooke, in the history depart-

ment, is well known for his work on death in the 16th and 17th centuries."

Three academics from Reading's sociology department sit on the board of a new journal, *Mortality*, and the university is thought to have more social scientists researching death than any other British university.

Students are expected to be from the caring professions, such as clergy, nurses and undertakers, or young graduates in history and archaeology.

The aims of the course are to foster curiosity about how societies handle death, to give students a new understanding of the symbolism and ritual of death and to provide training for career advancement or further research. Career prospects for students who gain their masters are not spelled out, but it could lead to a doctorate and a life of academic study, or enhance job prospects in the fields of nursing, undertaking and related subjects.

Dr Walter, author of a book called *The Revival of Death*, said that death was brushed under the carpet at the end of the Victorian era and remained there for half of this century. "But in the past 20 or 30 years there has been a very definite revival of death as a subject of conversation. Death is a very fashionable topic."

"Everybody has asked me if this course is not a bit morbid. I don't find it so and have been researching this area for about ten years. The academics engaged in this area are human people and fun to be with. They are certainly not dull or morbid."

## Bible play an act of blasphemy, says pastor

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

A THEATRE company could face a rare blasphemy prosecution for a play which portrays Christ as a Teletubby and describes the Virgin Mary as sleeping with the "holy goat".

A church minister and a solicitor have joined forces against the Reduced Shakespeare Company's production *The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)*, to open at the Gateway theatre in Chester in June.

The play, which has already toured the American Bible belt and other parts of England without mishap, has provoked the wrath of Pastor David Carson, of Chester's Zion Tabernacle, who described it as a "complete mockery of the word of God".

He is taking advice from Tony Bennett, a solicitor from Harlow, Essex, who accuses the company of "meeting out 'ribald treatment' and undermining the Bible. Mr Bennett said the play contravened common law regarding blasphemous libel, and he was awaiting counsel's advice on whether a prosecution could be brought.

The California-based Reduced Shakespeare Company advertises the play on the Internet with the words: "The bad boys of abridgement are back and this time it's blasphemy." It includes a sketch in which John the Baptist's head is brought in singing: "I ain't got no body", and ribald jokes about Adam and Eve and circumcision.

David Johnson, its producer, said: "The spirit in which the show is portrayed is very clear. It is not subversive."

## Margarine is first item for Diana fund to hit shelves

SHOPPERS were slow to buy fund-raising tubs of margarine carrying the signature of Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday when they went on sale for the first time.

The special tubs of Flora, with the work Thanks in big letters on the top, is the first product to carry the official logo commemorating the princess. It costs no extra.

Many shoppers outside Tesco's store in Pimlico, south-west London, said they were unaware of the fund-raising cartons. James Foster, 31, a fund manager, said: "I don't find it offensive because presumably the people responsible for the fund have given permission to raise money in this way. Also the money raised will be going to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund."

But housewife Mary Ashworth, 50, said the Thanks



A tub of margarine with the commemorative logo

said: "She has been promoted as a brand name by the people responsible for her name, so it is no surprise to see it in the shops."

The Prince of Wales is expected to take his sons William and Harry to at least two World Cup football matches in France when the competition kicks off in June.

Buckingham Palace confirmed yesterday that members of the royal family were making plans to attend the event, but said it was too early to know who would be attending which games.

Yesterday the Prince and his two sons left for Vancouver, where they will spend a short private skiing holiday at the resort of Whistler in the Canadian Rockies. Before travelling to the slopes, Prince William and Prince Harry will visit the Pacific Space Centre.

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# Bland backs BBC over controversial lottery game show

THE chairman of the BBC governors last night gave his full backing to a controversial National Lottery game show that is said to breach BBC guidelines by promoting a commercial product.

Sir Christopher Bland has written a ten-page letter to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, denying that the show, based around a £2 scratchcard, is inappropriate for a public service broadcaster.

Mr Smith ordered the governors to examine the format of the *National Lottery Big Ticket*, which starts on Saturday and which Camelot hopes will boost flagging sales of scratchcards. MPs reacted angrily to the TV Dreams card, which offers the chance of appearing on the show and winning up to £100,000, television's biggest prize.

Under the rules that guarantee its state funding, the BBC must not promote commercial products, offer overly large prizes and should pay for any prizes it offers. In this case the prize money will come from the National Lottery.

The BBC said Sir Christopher had given a detailed and robust reassurance that the programme was "in accordance with the BBC charter, agreement and its producer guidelines". The governors took legal advice before writing the letter.

As the new show was launched yesterday by the presenters Anthea Turner and Patrick Kielty, the BBC admitted that the scratchcard would be mentioned on the programme but denied that that amounted to promotion.

**Carol Midgley on the television show designed to boost the flagging sales of scratchcards**

Miss Turner said she could mention the scratchcard but not Camelot, the lottery operator. "I have never mentioned Camelot in all the years I have been doing the lottery show," she said.

Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the Culture Select Committee, who raised concerns about the programme in the Commons, said: "This is all a load of rubbish. This is a transparent G-string behind which they are breaching the ethics of the BBC. This is a commercial partnership where Camelot is being given free airtime to promote scratchcards. I have heard Camelot wants to increase sales by 20 per cent due to this show."

Tomorrow in an adjournment debate Mr Kaufman will call on the Government to ask the BBC to scrap the show.

The presenters have been banned from being photographed with the TV Dreams tickets and the BBC has ordered that its name should not be used in any promotional advertising. Insiders say BBC executives "bitterly regret" agreeing to the new £8 million, 16-episode series, and say the format will be changed as soon as possible. Clearly sensitive to the issue, the BBC did not mention the word scratchcard in ten pages of promotional material.

A spokeswoman for Camelot said the show was modelled on the Dutch lottery show, *Tony Wolfe*, the show's executive producer, admitted it was a controversial programme. He said his team had been very conscious of BBC guidelines when devising the format.

To ensure the programme meets regulations laid down both by the BBC and the

lottery regulator Oflot, celebrities and representatives of the good causes will play games of skill while scratchcard winners will take part only in games of complete luck.

The show will replace the present National Lottery draw and will run for 50 minutes on Saturday night. The first game was recorded this weekend. National Lottery draws will be incorporated live into the broadcast.

Miss Turner said the new show's attraction was that viewers would be able to see people winning enormous sums of money, which would add an edge to proceedings. "What everyone wants to see is what does someone feel when they find out they've won not just a thousand pounds, a kitchen or a car. This is serious money, this is money that can make and change

someone's life. To see that happen is something completely different."

Mr Kaufman said he believed there was a great deal of unease within the BBC over the move—shown, he said, by their need to take legal advice on the issue.



Patrick Kielty and Anthea Turner at the launch of the new National Lottery show in London yesterday

## 'Mercy' for TV licence dodgers

By CAROL MIDGLEY MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

VIEWERS caught watching television without a licence should no longer face criminal prosecution, a report recommends today.

TV *Sinners*, from the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux (Nacab), says it is extraordinary that people can get a criminal record and in some cases be jailed for watching television in their own home. It urges that the offence be dealt with as a civil matter in the county court rather than magistrates' court.

About 200,000 people are prosecuted each year in Britain for non-payment of the licence fee. Most of those prosecuted are women, often single mothers. People with mental health problems and those whose first language is not English are particularly vulnerable to prosecution.

The report, based on evidence from 200 bureaux, called for the BBC to introduce weekly and fortnightly payments immediately and accept payments by credit cards.

The black and white licence fee should be abolished immediately, it says, and in special cases the debt for a licence written off when a person is on such a low income he or she cannot afford to pay even the smallest instalments.

In April the fee will increase by 56 to £97.50 for a colour set. Non-payers face fines of up to £1,000. David Barker, chief executive of Nacab, said: "It seems that those least able to afford it are being forced to pay the price of the BBC's digital revolution."



Bland gave a "detailed and robust reassurance"

## Rock group regrets Blair's support

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WHEN Tony Blair included a record by an obscure folk-rock band called Ezio in his Desert Island Discs the Cambridge combo became famous overnight and record companies vied to snap them up. Yesterday, more than a year on, they complained that the dream had soured.

The man responsible? Tony Blair. In yet another blow to the Prime Minister's attempt to establish himself as the high priest of Cool Britannia, Ezio Lunedei said having the Prime Minister on his side was about as helpful as a

particularly untrendy uncle. Back in 1996 the then Leader of the Opposition told Sue Lawley that he wanted to take Ezio's *Caneel Today* to his desert island because the song was a source of comfort. "It's about wanting today to go away which is usually how I feel when Prime Minister's questions comes along," he said.

At the time Ezio Lunedei was unable to afford to buy new tyres for his car and his partner in the band, Mark "Booga" Fowell lived with his mother and a £100 overdraft. Suddenly they found their concerts packed and record company

executives trampling each other underfoot in the stampede to sign them up. They signed to Universal MCA for a five-album deal.

But now the band claims that people are not buying their records for the very reason that Mr Blair likes them and they don't want to listen to the same music as the Prime Minister. "It's not a great thing to be known as the ones liked by such an establishment figure, you can't expect the kids to buy our records if they want to shock their mum. It's been like an albatross around my neck," said Ezio, a former chartered accountant.

## Mandelson attacks Dome 'cynics'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

PETER MANDELSON labelled critics of his Millennium Exhibition "professional cynics" who would only be happy if the Dome fell down so they could say "I told you so".

The Minister Without Portfolio said yesterday it was untrue that poisonous waste from Greenwch was being allowed to seep into the English countryside, as environ-

mental campaigners have complained. He said he would be happy to be forever associated in people's minds with the Dome.

"I don't mind that," he told the Newspaper Conference annual luncheon at the London Hilton. "The Dome is a wonderful building and the contents are going to blow your socks off."

Mr Mandelson said that as the Millennium approached it was natural for some people,

with deep worries about the future, to retreat into nostalgia. "Others abandon themselves to pessimism — a response of paralysis, withdrawing into one ghetto or another where things are safer and where the threatening world can no longer impinge."

The worst of all are those who combine the two — the nostalgic pessimists, those who will only be happy if the Dome at Greenwich, or whatever, falls down and they can sit even further back in their armchair and say they told us so.

"We all know about the professional cynics. In my job in the Labour Party I have been wrestling with them for over a decade — the negative carpers who just want to pull threads in everything."

Mr Mandelson pledged that the transport and ticket arrangements would make a visit to the Dome affordable to people all over the country.

## Comeback hope to solve Newcastle's boardroom crisis

SIR JOHN HALL was being tipped last night as a saviour of beleaguered Newcastle United. The Geordie entrepreneur, whose millions saved the Premiership side from oblivion in the lower divisions six years ago, was set to come out of retirement to take over as chairman once more.

Northumbria Police announced that they had been asked to investigate reports of the activities of Sir John's son, Douglas, a Newcastle director, and Freddy Shepherd, the present club chairman. Lawyers for Mr Hall have issued a denial that he took drugs.

In a statement, Northumbria Police said they had been approached by several members of the public and Jim Cousins, the Newcastle Central Labour MP, who had expressed "concern" over allegations. The statement said: "We are looking at what evidence is available."

Sir John, who celebrated his 65th birthday last weekend, relinquished the Newcastle chairmanship last December, saying he intended to spend more time on the golf course in Spain. He is highly regarded by the club's supporters and the City, and many believe his return would calm the Stock Market and the crisis-torn club. He would replace Mr Shepherd, who, with Douglas Hall, has outraged fans with alleged comments about supporters, women and players.

Until yesterday Mr Shepherd, 56, and Douglas Hall, 39, had refused pointblank to resign their directorships of the club, in spite of a storm of protest which has continued unabated on Tyneside and in some City quarters since the two men were the target of a *News of the World* exposé two weekends ago.

Last week, Sir John issued a statement rejecting calls for his return, but the head of pressure for his son and Mr Shepherd to go has if anything increased since then. It was fuelled at the weekend by suggestions from Sir Terence Harrison, chairman of the

club's controlling plc, that he and his two fellow independent non-executive directors might go if Mr Shepherd and Mr Hall did not.

Yesterday the plc board spent the day locked in private discussions. The meeting at the club ground, St James's Park, had been scheduled originally as a routine session to approve the plc's half-yearly figures, believed to show a £10 million profit. However the crisis of confidence in the club forced itself to the head of the agenda.

The meeting began at 8am and wore on into the evening. It appeared that any announcement of a change at the top was being delayed until

the Stock Market reopens this morning. Such an announcement is bound to have an effect on the plc share price and therefore has to be announced to the market first.

Mr Shepherd flew to Barbados with his wife last Saturday ahead of further press allegations, and Mr Hall is a tax exile, living mainly in Spain.

Between them the two men own two-thirds of the club. Mr Hall controls 57 per cent through Cameron Hall, the development company started by his father and of which he is now chairman. Mr Shepherd owns 7 per cent through his Tyneside family engineering firm Shepherd Offshore.

Speculation in the City last night was that NatWest Markets, the plc's merchant banking adviser, was attempting to find investors to purchase a large part of the Cameron Hall stake.

Under an agreement signed prior to last year's flotation, the Hall family vowed not to sell any of its shares until this autumn without NatWest's agreement. However, NatWest is understood to be willing to allow the Halls to cut their stake.



Freddy Fletcher arriving at the meeting yesterday

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Play it again... sequel to... growing in... transplant... is free



# Play it again: a novel sequel to Casablanca

By DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ONE of cinema's greatest love stories is to be given a new beginning and a new end. An American writer has been commissioned to produce a prequel and a sequel to *Casablanca*, the classic wartime romance starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

The idea of reworking such a great movie, possibly the best-loved Hollywood film ever, may seem like sacrilege to some. But the public's appetite for sequels to their favourite movies or books have proved insatiable.



New future for Bogart and Bergman in *Casablanca*

These latest books follow the success of *Gone with the Wind's* 1993 sequel, *Scarlett*, which saw Scarlett O'Hara determined to win back Rhett Butler.

Nancy Wiese, rights director at Warner Books — which purchased the rights to the *Casablanca* characters and who was selling the book at the London International Book Fair yesterday — described *Gone with the Wind* and *Casablanca* as "the two

great unresolved love-stories". Beyond that, she added, the comparison fades "partly because writing a sequel to a film is a different process than trying to follow something already on paper. This book has got the film's feel for language and the visuals."

The author is Michael Walsh, whose first novel, called *Exchange Allies*, was a bestseller in America. Ms Wiese said: "For this, he's been muzzled. We don't want to say

too much until publication (November, in Britain). But he's done a ton of research. He's thoroughly researched the period and the history of the Second World War.

"He doesn't novelise the film, he references it. He starts the story where the movie left off and flashes back to events in the characters' lives.

"I don't want to say too much, but he has developed the characters beautifully. You see Humphrey Bogart in this,

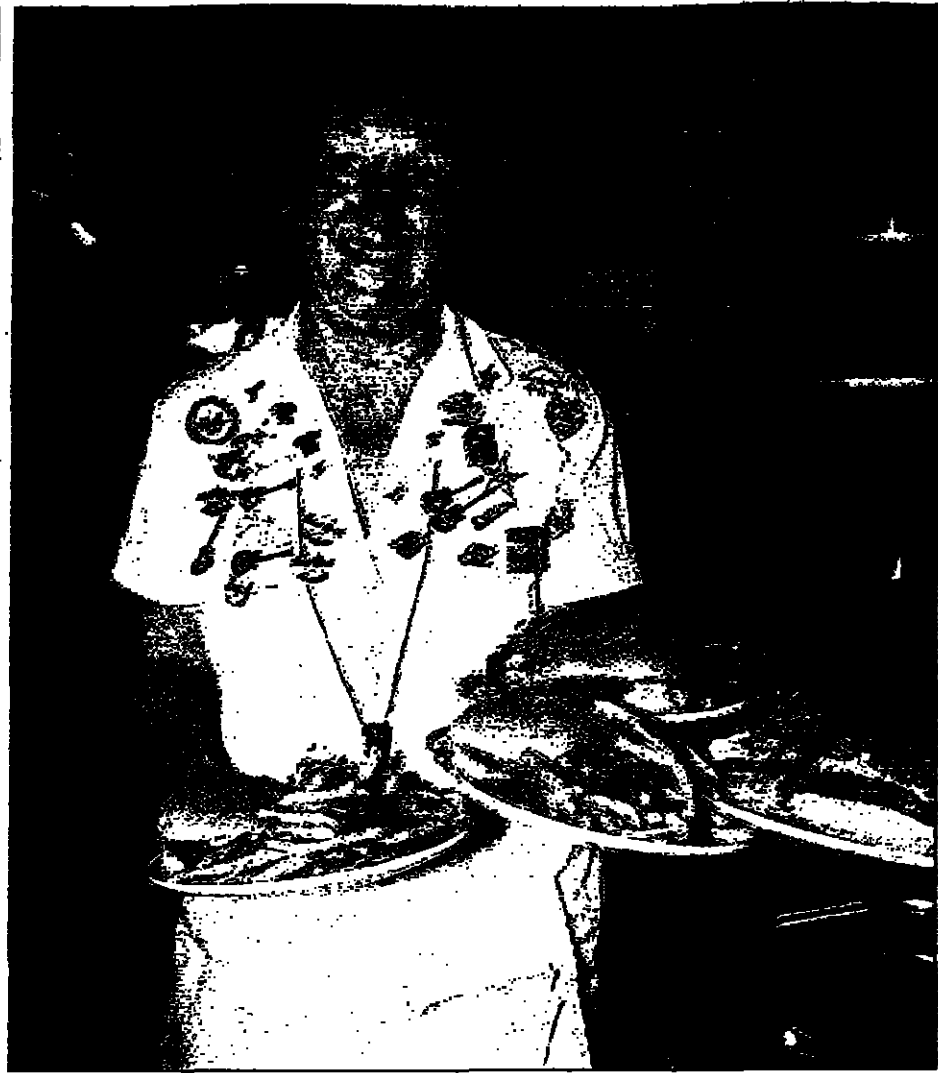
you see Claude Rains, you see Ingrid Bergman."

The original 1942 movie was based on a play that was never staged by Murray Burnett, who died last autumn embittered that no one remembered his work. He was eclipsed by the screenwriters, Julius J. Epstein, Philip G. Epstein and Howard Koch.

Walsh's manuscript has been taken up by Philippa Harrison, chief executive and publisher of Little, Brown, which has acquired the rights for the British markets. As *Scarlett* was such a huge success, particularly in America, she expects this one to be as popular: "*Scarlett* was the 14th biggest book in 1993 in the whole of the English-speaking world. This book is a much better book."

Dr Hans-Peter Ubleis, president and publisher of Weltbild Trade Publishing Group, said that he had been so determined to acquire the German rights, he did so for \$500,000 (£30,000) without reading the manuscript.

Orange book prize, page 8



Rita Gilligan is both waitress and "cultural attaché" for the Hard Rock Cafe

## They also serve who only rock and wait

A WAITRESS who has served many of the world's leading celebrities is to be awarded an honorary MBE for her services to Britain's tourist industry.

Rita Gilligan, from Co Galway, has worked at the Hard Rock Cafe in London since it opened in June 1971. Her customers have included Paul Newman, Muhammad Ali, members of the Beatles and the Spice Girls. While still waitressing in London three days a week, she now also travels to new venues as the company's "cultural attaché".

The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, said: "Rita has given outstanding service to our tourism industry through her work at the Hard Rock Cafe and is renowned for combining efficient service and a lively approach. Over the years she has been deluged with letters of thanks."

Ms Gilligan said: "I never expected an award. I have always tried to make everyone enjoy their visit, whether they are a star or not, whether they order a T-bone steak or a cup of tea."

## Pot-growing transplant man is freed

By A CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE has allowed a liver transplant patient to go free after he admitted growing and using cannabis to ease his pain. Sympathising with him, Judge John Hopkin said: "I accept that's why you were growing it; to relieve the considerable pain you must suffer. That is against the law as it stands at the present time, but there is very substantial mitigation in your case."

Richard Gifford, 49, a father of six, was given a two-year conditional discharge at Nottingham Crown Court last week after pleading guilty to producing and possessing cannabis. The judge said: "Whether this substance should be obtained by prescription is a matter for Parliament. But it does seem from a number of cases that appear before me that it is of benefit to a number of persons."

Yesterday Gifford pledged to carry on smoking the drug: "While I am still alive, I intend to carry on using it," he said. His family doctor also backed his use of cannabis in a letter to the judge.

The court heard that police found cannabis plants, some 5ft tall, growing in Gifford's back garden in Nottingham.

Gifford said after the case that he first smoked the drug in 1968 after being medically discharged from the Royal Engineers because of a spinal disorder. He then contracted hepatitis and, in 1996, he underwent a liver transplant. His chances of surviving were

put at less than 40 per cent. At the height of his suffering, the former garage owner was smoking up 20 cannabis "joints" a day, drinking marijuana tea and even eating freshly picked leaves with his roast beef and Yorkshire pudding.

"I couldn't begin to tell you the amount of pain and suffering I have had to endure. But I was able, once I had the availability of cannabis, to stop using prescribed drugs such as morphine and other strong painkillers which are habitually addictive," he said.

Gifford's wife, Miriam, a clairvoyant, said she had never touched cannabis but would not hesitate to use the drug if she fell ill. Her husband said he had been buying it on the streets since the police cut down his 12 8ft plants. He has asked for a licence to grow the drug legally or be able to obtain it on prescription but he was turned down.

Medical experts have claimed that cannabis also brings relief to people with arthritis and multiple sclerosis, and stimulates appetites of Aids patients.

Paddy Tipping, Parliamentary Private Secretary to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that the Government had no plans to decriminalise cannabis: "People like Judge Hopkin say they acknowledge there is a valuable medical effect, but there has been no compelling research done to suggest that."



Richard Gifford, left, admitted growing cannabis. Judge Hopkin gave him a conditional discharge

## Magazine cleared of bias against man

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

A JOURNALIST at *Woman's Realm* who claimed he was sacked because he was a man lost his claim for unfair dismissal yesterday.

Mark Howard, 38, former features editor at the magazine, was fired in September after turning up an hour late one day. He told an industrial tribunal at Croydon, South London, that when he telephoned the office to say that his ten-year-old daughter had suffered an epileptic fit, Kathy Watson, his editor, had said: "Shut up, Mark. You're not working out as features editor. You're fired. I want you out of the building today."

Mr Howard, from Cambridge, had been close to the end of a three-month trial period for his £32,000-a-year job. He claimed he was

victimised because he was one of only three men in the workforce of 30.

He was told in a later dismissal letter that he had been sacked for poor time-keeping, bad management and an inability to operate in a team. He said that, until his sacking in September last year, he had received glowing reports. "My argument is that had I been a woman any perceived shortcomings would have been brought to my attention."

The tribunal ruled that there was no evidence to suggest his employers were guilty of sex discrimination. After the hearing, Mr Howard said: "I think it's disgraceful that any employer should treat staff in this way when their child is seriously ill."

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# Legal aid 'only route for personal injury claims'

### Two recent court cases highlight why the present system must be preserved, reports Frances Gibb

TWO accident victims awarded a total of £700,000 would never have received a penny under the Lord Chancellor's plans to scrap legal aid for personal injuries, solicitors said at the High Court yesterday.

Lord Irvine of Lairg plans to end legal aid for personal injury cases this summer and replace it with conditional "no win, no fee" agreements. However solicitors representing the two personal injury victims said their cases would never have reached court without legal aid.

David Bateman, a former painter who was left brain-damaged by poisonous fumes from a faulty gas boiler received £315,000 in an agreed settlement with British Gas.

Emily Furman, of the solicitors Miller Parris, said the case "could never have hap-

pened" without legal aid. The case had taken five years to reach court and it was "completely unrealistic" to think that any legal firm could do it with the conditional fee agreement method.

"This man would have got nothing and British Gas would have got away with it without legal aid," she said after the hearing.

Mr Bateman, 57, was found unconscious by his wife in the kitchen of his home in East Preston, Littlehampton, West Sussex, on December 21, 1992. Carbon monoxide gas from the central heating boiler changed him from a happy, outgoing personality into a "moody, unpredictable and aggressive" man. Mr Justice Allott was told.

British Gas finally admitted liability last week and agreed the Potterton Kingfisher CFSO



Lord Irvine: plans to scrap legal aid system

in January 1991, when he was 19. A spokesman for his solicitors said he was able to bring a claim for compensation only because he was granted legal aid in 1991.

"The Legal Aid Board has funded all costs and will now be reimbursed in full. Darren's family fully acknowledge they could not possibly have funded this claim without legal aid and are dismayed, like thousands of others, at the Lord Chancellor's proposals to abolish it for those who have been injured in an accident through no fault of their own."

A legal expert said these were just two examples where legal aid was the only avenue open to injury victims.

The Bar Council yesterday also expressed concern about the Government's plans. Daniel Brennan, vice chairman of the Bar Council, said that "no win, no fee" agreements would cost more than the Government estimated and the extra cost would increase lawyers' charges.

Law, pages 39, 41



Harry Smith at work in the clay silt at the entrance of the Duke of Bridgewater's tunnel under Manchester

## Explorer of lost tunnel pledges to defy ban

By Russell Jenkins

AN AMATEUR industrial archaeologist, who has spent 25 years digging out the Duke of Bridgewater's "lost" tunnel running under the heart of Manchester, has threatened to defy planners, who want to block the entrance under a new development.

Harry Smith, 64, from Winsford, Cheshire, is obsessed with solving the mystery of where the canal - built in the 1760s to ferry coal across the city - once emerged and what secrets lie entombed 30ft below the city centre.

The former coal miner, a stalwart of Winsford Industrial Archaeology Society, has devoted his spare time to darning the entrance in the Castlefield area of Manchester so that he could drain the waterlogged tunnel. He and fellow enthusiasts have dug 50ft through clay silt, retrieving 18th-century beer bottles and jam jars, but Manchester City Council has now ordered him to dig no farther.

City planners have served an enforcement notice and ordered the diggers to be off the site by the weekend. Mr Smith fears that the entrance will be blocked for ever beneath a fashionable canalside complex. "They will turn it into another one of those silly cafes," he said. "The idea is that they will put a glass bottom under the cafe so diners can look down and see the tunnel entrance."

"There's a wonderful mystery down there, but it may never be solved if the council acts like vandals. There could be anything down there - nobody knows... Historians

have sought in vain over the years to find the planning records for the canal. All I am interested in is getting to the end of it so that I find out exactly where it goes."

Mr Smith warned the authorities that he would go to great lengths to achieve his ambition and he has some secret locations where he could dig through to the tunnel and carry on the work clandestinely.

The Duke of Bridgewater is believed to have started work on the tunnel in about 1760 so that coal, mined in Salford, could be transported easily across the city - in its day, the tunnel held 5ft of water and was wide enough for two canal boats to pass.

It was built as a spur from the Castlefield basin, now the centre of Manchester's cafe scene, and runs under Deansgate. Mr Smith believes it crosses the city under Bridgewater Street and once emerged in front of the city's Victoria station.

If lay undisturbed until 1973 when Mr Smith and his colleagues decided to match their research into the Victorian city's industrial heritage with their own spadework.

Manchester City Council, which aims to sell the land, gave the diggers until the middle of February to pack up. A spokesman said: "Unfortunately, Mr Smith has not complied with this and we will therefore be contacting him to ensure that he does."

Mr Smith insisted that he would continue to dig. "I want to get to the end before I die," he said.

## Pop history with a scrap of difference

By A Correspondent

A SCRAP of newspaper torn from a school exercise book in 1961 is expected to fetch up to £11,000 at auction next month. It is the only known example of a document with the autographs of all five original Beatles.

The signatures are those of Stuart Sutcliffe, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Pete Best, signing themselves with love to a now unknown girl named Diane. The Beatles were then playing regularly at the Cavern Club in Liverpool.

The autographs were signed before Sutcliffe left the group in Hamburg in July 1961 - he subsequently died of a brain tumour - and before Best was replaced by Ringo Starr. It was not until December 1962 that *Love Me Do* made the Top 20, reaching number 17, and the group began its rapid rise to interna-

tional stardom. Now the piece of paper, which measures about 3in by 5in, is being offered for sale by a private collector at a Christie's sale in London on April 30.

The auction house's pop specialist, Carey Wallace, said yesterday: "It is a pretty uninspiring piece of paper, but it is part of musical history. It is yellowing and there is a small hole going through the letter O of Paul McCartney's 'love', but the writing is still very clear."

### A little can mean so much

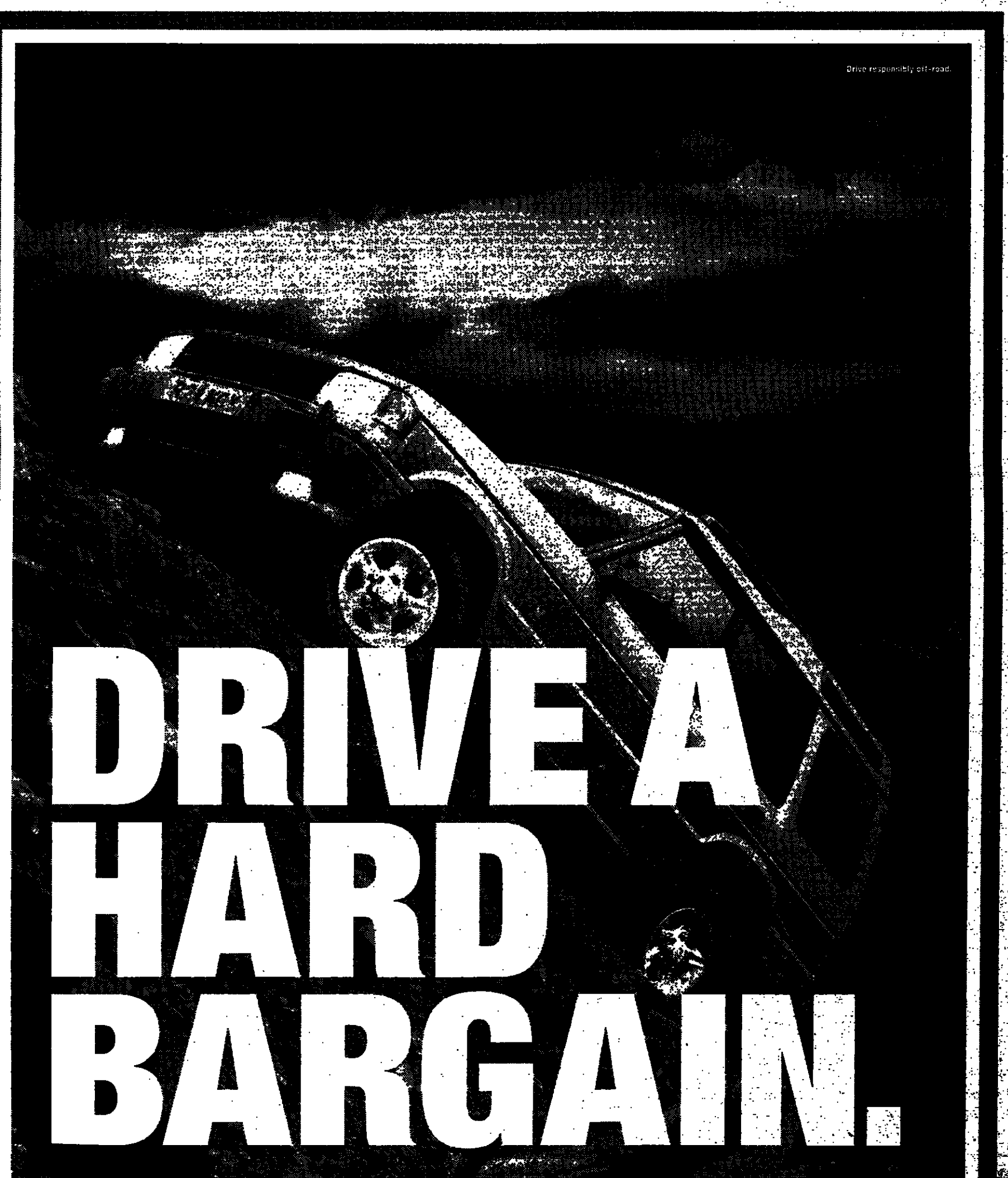
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# Britain leads way to higher zoo standards

A BRITISH initiative to end cruelty in zoos won European backing when environment ministers agreed to support legally binding standards of animal welfare yesterday.

British officials now hope they will be able to secure a framework directive in the summer to crack down on zoos, aquariums, bird gardens and dolphinariums in the European Union that keep animals in cramped, boring, and unhealthy conditions.

The directive will also set new standards for zoos to develop captive breeding and other conservation programmes for rare and endangered animals.

Three options had been on the table in Brussels. One, backed by the European Commission, was for a recommendation on improving the animal welfare of zoos. But this would not have been legally binding.

Another was to back a full animal welfare directive for zoos as supported by the European Parliament. However, the successful proposal, developed under the British presidency, was for a directive to aid the conservation of rare species but with provisions to set up a Europe-wide licensing and inspection scheme for zoos.

One British official said after the vote: "It is basically a conservation directive where animal welfare is brought in through the back door."

Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said that the directive would allow zoos to work together more effectively. Some 230 zoos across the

**EU inspection scheme will improve welfare of animals in captivity, writes Nick Nuttall**

EU were working to conserve 150 endangered species including the Siberian tiger and the European otter.

The initiative, negotiated by Angela Eagle the junior Environment Minister, comes after years of campaigning by welfare groups concerned at poor standards in some zoos notably in Spain and Greece.

Unlike Britain, several European countries, still have no system for inspecting and approving zoos. Some countries have argued strongly that animal welfare should be a national rather than European issue.

Several unspecified member states continued to question the European Commission's right to set welfare standards because these are not enshrined in the Treaty of Rome. However, despite reservations, a majority of ministers voted in favour, "a very significant step forward", according to a spokeswoman for the Environment Department.

Earlier environment ministers agreed on a string of measures designed to combat air pollution and increase recycling. Under the Auto-Oil

Directive emissions from light vans of particulates — tiny flecks of soot linked with heart attacks and lung ailments — will be cut by about 40 per cent.

A solvent directive covering chemicals from dry cleaners to aircraft painting will cut emissions of smog forming pollution from these industries by 57 per cent.

The Association des Constructeurs Européens d'Automobiles, which represents European carmakers, has offered to cut emissions of the global warming gas carbon dioxide by a quarter by 2008 below 1995 levels.

Mr Meacher, who was chairing the council of ministers meeting, said: "This is significant improvement on the previous figure they offered and we agreed that it was a good basis for negotiation."

Leading article, page 19



A dejected tiger lies in an Italian zoo — the sort of conditions the European directive aims to stamp out

## Owner of big cats fights for their lives

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

TWO Bengal tigers and four other big cats face a premature end after planners told their owner he could no longer keep them.

The three-year-old tigers, two leopards, a puma and a jaguar are kept at a theme park in the Cotswolds. But when Tim Spittle applied to build a new enclosure for them, he was turned down. Cotswold District Council then said that, because of safety concerns, he must stop keeping them in their fortified barn.

Yesterday zoo and veterinary inspectors visited Mr Spittle's Sleepy Hollow Farm Park near Blockley, Gloucestershire, to decide whether he should be allowed to keep the cats. He has said that they would have to be destroyed unless new homes could be found.

Mr Spittle's enclosures plan was vetoed by planners after some villagers claimed that "dangerous animals", including a lynx, had escaped from the park in the past.

## Star's elephant plea may force circus to close

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A FEDERAL investigation into alleged animal cruelty has begun into the world-renowned Barnum & Bailey Circus after a relentless campaign by the actress Kim Basinger, who says a sick young elephant was worked to death. If the charges are proved, the circus, now in its 117th year, could face a suspension of its live entertainment licence, possibly for up to a year.

The three-year-old Indian elephant, named Kenny, died in January in Jacksonville, Florida, from a viral gastrointestinal infection. An animal-rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, alleges that it was forced to perform in the ring while sick instead of being allowed to rest and recover.

The group found a vociferous ally in Ms Basinger, who wrote repeatedly to the US



Basinger, circus denies her claim of cruelty

Department of Agriculture, which monitors whether circuses and zoos comply with the Animal Welfare Act. In one letter, she said: "This elephant most likely suffered more anguish and misery than we will ever know. As a mother myself, I cannot fathom the thought of this poor, sick baby cruelly and prematurely removed from his mother's side, being shunted from town to town in railway cars and shackled when not performing."

Alleging that Kenny had been forced to perform in three shows "although the circus knew he was ill", she called on the department to launch an inquiry, and to suspend the circus's performing licence as an interim measure.

Yesterday, Barbara Pflughaupt, a spokeswoman for Ringling Brothers, which owns the circus, said: "We are deeply concerned about the falsehoods and innuendo being spread. We understand that there are people who believe that animals and humans should not be working together, and have taken an isolated incident to get their agenda out there."

The circus vet, Gary West, has also defended the group. He said: "This was a rapidly progressive condition, but he showed no serious signs of illness 36 hours prior to his death." The elephant died just when its condition appeared to be improving.

## Arts therapy will have role in NHS

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DANCE, music, literature, drama and painting are to be given a role in the National Health Service of the future. The idea is to harness the arts to help reduce depression and combat social exclusion.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, was among a group of 40 experts who drew up the plan to bring the arts from the margins to the centre of healthcare planning and practice.

The idea is to increase professional education in the arts as therapy to complement the scientific and technological models that have been the main driving force of treatment for most

of the century. One member of the expert group, Robin Phillip, senior lecturer in occupational health and public health medicine at Bristol University, said the plan would prove cost effective. "We spend £81 million a year on anti-depressants and the cost per patient can be as high as £300 a year," he said. "If we can wean just a few of these patients off such drugs through the use of arts, then it will be worth it." While the therapeutic value of the arts in preventing disease has been shown through research, their capacity to enhance the quality of life has not yet been exploited by the NHS.

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# Early learning may put boys off school

MPs to study fears that emphasis on three Rs is to blame for rise in expulsions, writes David Charter

MPS ARE to investigate whether schools should delay teaching the three Rs until children reach the age of six or seven after concern at growing evidence that boys, in particular, are being turned off school by being made to start sums and spelling too early.

Research by the Department for Education found that examination results had not improved at the 50 secondary schools with the highest levels of expulsions. Mrs Hodge said, "There is some evidence from European countries that we start formal lessons in this country before some children are ready. The danger is that these children, particularly boys, fall behind and become alienated from school and disaffected at an early age."

That doesn't mean that what children do should not be structured and rigorous. But should they be doing formal reading and writing? We will want to look at this in an inquiry which will be looking at schools from nursery to age seven.

Mrs Hodge said schools in Hungary and Switzerland concentrated on developing infants' conceptual and physical skills before introducing writing and mathematics. By the age of 11, pupils there are already more than a year ahead of English children in international comparative tests.

She added that she was not questioning the wisdom of the Government's regime of tests for seven-year-olds in mathematics, science and English. "It may very well be that children who spend their early school years making sure they are ready for the three Rs would do better by the time they are aged seven," she said. "We have

this great thing that our children aren't learning to read and write so if we start them earlier, that must raise standards. All I'm saying is that we should think whether that is true."

experience. Schools tolerated too much violent and disruptive behaviour, he added. In recent weeks, a school in the North of England had failed to exclude a 14-year-old boy who groped a female member of staff and a Midlands school expelled a 12-year-old boy only after he committed his 11th assault on a member of staff or fellow pupil. "I wonder how many potential teachers are now being excluded from the profession because of incidents like these," Mr de Gruchy said.

## Poor families to be told the best way to bring up baby

Valerie Elliott on plans for an annual report on the state of the nation's children to help those from disadvantaged homes

HEALTH visitors could become "super godparents" to young families under a plan by ministers. An annual report on the state of the nation's children is another proposal to emerge from a Treasury review of the £10 billion spent on services for children under the age of eight.

The development of the godparent role is intended to help new parents with the practicalities of bringing up a young child. The emphasis would be on activities and teaching skills, and teaching parents to prepare their children for nursery and school life.

The annual report would provide information about children such as how they live, with whom, their birth weights, their growth rates, diet, health and educational achievements. The idea is to help government to identify future needs and to prevent a growth in numbers of the socially excluded.

The new approach is recommended by a cross-departmental taskforce chaired by Tessa Jowell, the Minister for Public Health, to help to motivate children from disadvantaged homes and to circumvent problems during their adolescent years. The Treasury review has been carried out to ensure that the money is being well spent.

Other proposals include more targeted help up to the

age of three; an extended role for health visitors; neighbourhood family centres offering parents advice on health, development and education; local authorities switching resources to help all families in need, not just those on the protection register.

A report setting out a policy framework to ensure that children are more closely monitored on the road to adulthood will be submitted to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, early in the summer. The findings are an important element of the Government's comprehensive spending review and will be used also by the Cabinet's public spending committee. P.S. to decide future cash allocations.

Ministers are concerned that too much money is directed to help children and families who have reached "crisis" situations. In future they want government cash and services, at both central and local government levels, to shift their emphasis from rescue to prevention. The aim is to ensure that more children from disadvantaged backgrounds grow up to become good citizens, hold down jobs and later become good parents themselves.

Ms Jowell said the strategy was not about "state enforced parenting". Ministers were determined that no child should be stigmatised or la-



The "snooze room" at the Pen Green Centre in Corby where mothers can unwind and social workers can calm overactive children

## One stop for play, rest and study

belled potential criminal or drop-out at an early age. She said her review team had identified a gap in provision of children's services up to the age of three — the years when parents were largely left to their own devices in bringing up their children.

The mother of two teenagers who also has three older stepchildren, she said: "Our aim is to understand why children are at risk of being socially excluded and look at the ways we can intervene. This is all about prevention instead of the rescue services we offer at present."

A "ONE-STOP shop" for families such as the Pen Green Centre in Corby, Northamptonshire, is the type of community facility ministers would like to see in deprived areas (Valerie Elliott writes).

Set up in a former secondary school after the closure of the steelworks, when hundreds of people faced unemployment, it provides for many family needs, from clinics to playgroups, gym clubs and adult education classes.

Named by the Department for Education and Employment as an early-excellence centre, it is open to everyone in the community but has a special

emphasis on learning. A popular feature is a "de-stress" room for parents and children — known as the "snooze room" — where they enjoy quiet and unwind in a padded white area with fountains. Social workers can use it to calm distressed or hyperactive children and health visitors recommend it to weary young mothers for a short respite.

If a parent has a particular problem or a child is in need of specialist help, the relevant professionals are sited under the same roof.

Margy Whalley, the centre's director, said last night: "A family may need to see

11 or 12 different professionals. They can meet them all here and it is a very cost-effective way of providing local services. But there are hundreds of other families who use this centre for recreation. They use the drop-in café to meet their friends or they join in play-sessions. But we are trying to make sure that the centre is known for its learning and rigour." The centre has just won a £60,000 grant for the next three years to fund a research project on parental involvement in children's learning. It is also to become the first nursery in the country to offer an MA course for childhood educators.

## First-timers listed for fiction prize

BY DALVA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FIVE first-time novelists are among 20 writers on the longlist for the Orange Prize for Fiction, which promotes excellence in women's writing. The £30,000 prize, established three years ago, is open to any woman writing in English.

The five writers nominated for first novels are Kirsten Bakis for *Lives Of The Monster Dogs*, Kathryn Heyman for *Round Rock*, Pauline Melville for *The Ventriquist's Tale* and Louisa Young for *Baby Love*. However, publishers believe the contest will be narrowed down to *The*

*House Gun*, by Nadine Gordimer, and *Larry's Party*, by Carol Shields.

Sheena McDonald, the broadcaster who chairs the judging panel, said: "There was a consensus among the judges and I am delighted that, without any design, we've selected a genuinely international longlist." Other judges include Erica Wagner, literary editor of *The Times*, and the novelist Bernice Rubens.

Jane Gregory, the literary agent, said it was important that women were judged by women, even though some people believed a women-only prize was outdated. "Look at who buys books. Over the range, it is 80 per cent women," she said.

"That's the way of the world." Liz Calder, editor-in-chief of Bloomsbury, which has four longlisted novels, said that the argument against a women's prize had grown tired. "What is outdated is to keep on discussing that."

The final shortlist will be released on April 27, while the overall winner of the prize, sponsored by the mobile phone company Orange, will be announced on May 19 at the Royal Festival Hall.

The other listed writers are Sandra Brown (Brazil Goncalves), Lucy Ellmann (Alan or Margaret), Esther Freud (Goncalves), Cristina Garcia (The Agave Sisters), Liz Jensen (The Bible), Christina King (Unfettered Country), Doreen Maslow (The Orchard), Ana Pacheco (The Magician's Assistant), Deirdre Fennell (Love, Life, Hate Affairs), Anna Crutwell (Black and Blue), Michelle Roberts (The Impossible Summer), Anita Shreve (The Weight of Water) and Jane Urquhart (The Underpainter).

## 1bn litres of water missing

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THERE is far less water good enough to drink in England and Wales than was previously supposed, the Environment Agency claims in a report today.

A new assessment concludes that a billion litres less is available from rivers, lakes and aquifers each day than was estimated in the early 1990s. The study, which has looked more closely at rainfall patterns over recent years, says that the North West,

Thames Valley, the West of England and Wales are the hardest-hit areas.

Giles Phillips, the agency's head of water resources, said yesterday that the study underlined a need for small but important investments in better water treatment works, pumping equipment and less leaky pipes. The report will be especially worrying for water companies and their customers if the recent years of drought are continued and

global warming forecasts prove sound.

"The new yields do show up concerns over the resilience of some water supply systems in the face of severe drought," Dr Phillips said.

The Government has asked the agency for advice on how water supplies can be better managed into the next century. Water companies have been asked to submit draft water resource and management plans by June this year.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Builder is remanded over rape on train

A jobless Kenyan builder was remanded in custody at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court in London until April 20, accused of raping a 16-year-old boy in the lavatory of a train between Eastbourne, East Sussex, and Victoria station in London on February 7. Rushid Musa, 21, who gave his address as the YMCA hostel in Stockwell, South London, is also charged with imprisoning the boy and robbing him of a watch, a silver bangle and cash, as well as raping and robbing a woman in Belgravia, West London.

#### Prison damages

David Marsh, 33, of Barnet, North London, a bricklaying instructor beaten up by two inmates during an escape from The Mount jail near Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, in 1994, was awarded £180,000 agreed damages from the Home Office.

#### Carer's overdose

Joyce Franklin, 40, a senior care assistant at an old people's home in Guildford, Surrey, was remanded on bail at the Old Bailey after admitting giving an overdose of sedatives to a resident, a woman of 93 who survived but later died naturally.

#### River death

A 73-year-old woman died after falling into the River Severn at Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester, while feeding ducks. Marion Wilkinson, of Halesowen, West Midlands, was pulled from the water, but died later at Kidderminster General Hospital.

#### Kidnap remand

Clive Barwell, 40, from Wortley, Leeds, appeared before Leeds magistrates in connection with two sex attacks. He faces charges of kidnap, rape, indecent assault and robbery and was remanded in police custody for three days.

#### MPs' lights out

Anti-smoking campaigners have succeeded in extending smoke-free areas in the Houses of Parliament — for a trial period at least. MPs and staff will no longer be able to smoke in telephone kiosks, lavatories, private committee meetings and corridors.

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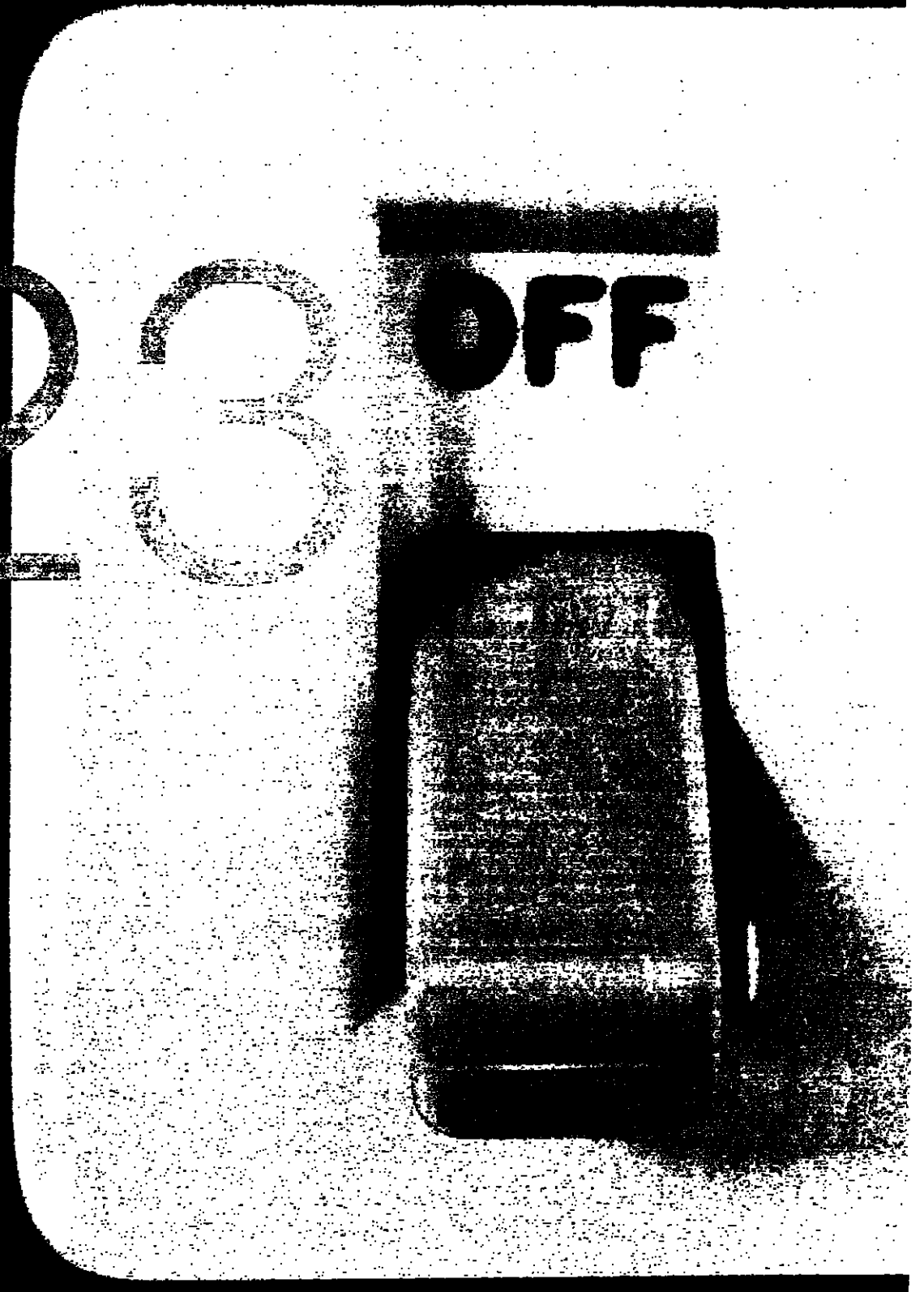
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GREG GIBSON/AP

# Africa urged by Clinton to pursue trade and not aid

## The President's dream of a renaissance for the continent has set the stage for his six-nation journey, David Orr reports

HUNDREDS of thousands of well-wishers yesterday turned out to welcome President Clinton to Ghana, where he began his 12-day visit to Africa. In Accra, the capital, an estimated quarter of a million people cheered as he delivered an address extolling the virtues of democracy, trade and justice.

"We want to work with Africans to nurture democracy," he told the crowd packed into the city's Independence Square. "Democracy must have prosperity."

Then Mr Clinton walked down steps to shake hands of Ghanaians packed against metal barriers. The crowd surged forward, nearly knocking over the barriers to get to him, and Mr Clinton, with a look of consternation on his face, put his hands up and said: "Back up." Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said the President was delighted at what he believed was the largest crowd he had ever faced and had a one-word reaction to its size: "Wow."

The President praised Africans for the progress towards democracy being made on the continent. He also urged the youth of Africa to strive towards a better future.

"My dream for this trip is that together we might do the things so that, a hundred years from now, your grandchildren and mine will be back and say this was the beginning of a new African renaissance," he told the throng.

President Rawlings, Ghana's elected head of state but formerly a coup leader stunned by Washington, welcomed President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, to the West African nation.

This is Mr Clinton's longest foreign trip and the first American presidential tour of Africa since Jimmy Carter came two decades ago. Three large aircraft are carrying the Clinton retinue, whose itinerary also features Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana and Senegal.

The tour is being billed as the start of a new relationship between Africa and America, a relationship based on "trade, not aid". As the Clintons were enjoying the first stage of their six-country safari, last-minute licks of paint were yesterday being given to buildings in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, which they were due to reach early today. Major roads have been repaired, signposts erected, grass verges trimmed and flowers planted. Hundreds of destitute, most of them street children, have been taken off the city streets while vendors have been ordered to move their wares from newly surfaced pavements.

After attending a lunch hosted by President Museveni, Mr Clinton will head to Kiserwa primary school, north of Kampala, where he will give his only public address of his Ugandan visit. "He's making education the main theme of his trip here," said one Western diplomat in Kampala. "Primary education is the principal domestic issue for the Ugandan Government."

The mood in the Ugandan capital is incredibly upbeat with speculation that President Clinton will also put trade and debt relief high on his agenda.

Mr Museveni, a former Marxist and ex-guerrilla leader, is seen as a strategic friend of Washington and a man who knows how to balance his books. His country has achieved one of the most dramatic economic comebacks on the continent.

President Museveni's commitment to free trade and the eradication of corruption has made him a darling of the international donor community.

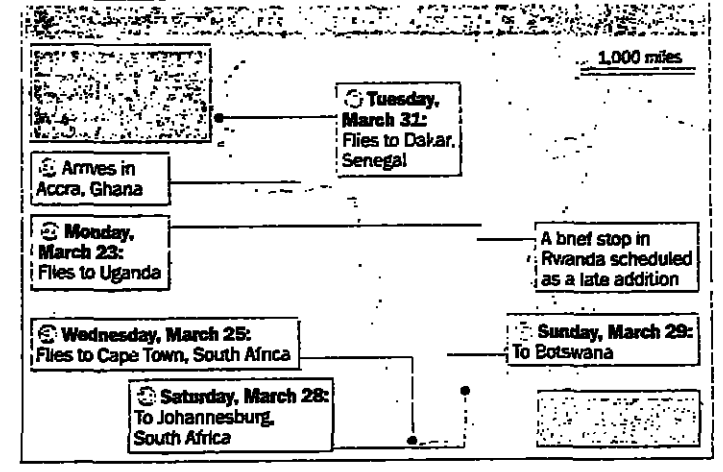
However, a Western diplomat in Kampala yesterday sounded a cautionary note. "The core content of the visit is minimal," he said. "It's activity rather than action, and the amount of money offered is going to be small. If the Ugandans think they're going to get a bonanza, they're going to be disappointed."

Analysts of US-Africa business relations are predicting improvements in American trade with the sub-Saharan region but few are talking of blockbuster deals as a direct result of the Clinton visit.

President Clinton will hold a meeting tomorrow with eight regional heads of state, principal among whom are leaders of the much-vaunted "new African order". With President Museveni as their mentor, the leaders of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda and Tanzania are seen as forging a revitalised identity for the continent based on independence and progressive thinking.



President Clinton is overwhelmed yesterday by Ghanaians trying to shake hands in Independence Square, Accra. Nearly 250,000 people came to hear him



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# Moscow mayor fancied in Kremlin race



Yeltsin's nominee will need the backing of the Duma deputies

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

AFTER President Yeltsin's sudden dismissal of his entire Government, speculation was rife last night about the identity of the next Russian Prime Minister, who would be best positioned to take over the presidency at the next elections.

Mr Yeltsin, who announced that he would temporarily take over the duties of the Prime Minister, has two weeks to name his choice. But before taking office, the new Prime Minister must be endorsed by the State Duma, the lower house of parliament. If the Duma votes three times to reject Mr Yeltsin's nominee, he can dissolve the assembly and call fresh elections.



Sergei Kiriyenko: temporary elevation

The transformation of Moscow from a dull, grey sprawl into a booming, lively metropolis has been the result of his efforts in promoting grandiose projects and his organisational skills.

self last night that he expected to be asked to head a new Government. The Duma would reject him as Prime Minister, but he could be brought in as First Deputy Prime Minister, beside Boris Nemtsov, also a First Deputy Prime Minister.

The clear losers yesterday were Mr Chernomyrdin — whose presidential ambitions were removed at a stroke — and General Anatoli Kulikov, the hawkish Interior Minister, whose dismissal was ordered in a separate decree.



Chernomyrdin's presidential ambitions were removed at a stroke

## Court of Tsar Boris run on uncertainty principle

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

IN THE chaotic and unpredictable world of post-Communist Russia, only one rule seems to have stood the test of time — everyone in politics is expendable, except President Yeltsin.



Chubais: repeatedly sacked and then rehired by Yeltsin

only man he temporarily trusted to take over as head of state, a post that includes control of Russia's vast nuclear arsenal.



Korzhakov: former confidant of President fell from grace

Yeltsin's best friend and body-guard, who was sacked after a fierce power struggle in 1996. Since then the system of sackings has continued unchecked. Some ministers were dismissed in a cryptic two-line statement from the Kremlin press service.

Mr Chernomyrdin was increasingly perceived by the press and private sector as the man in day-to-day control of the country and as the obvious successor to Mr Yeltsin.

### THE DECREES

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4. I ask the President of the Russian Federation to sign the Decree on the dismissal of the Government of the Russian Federation.

## 'Ministers come and go, nothing seems to change'

Richard Beeston finds most Moscow citizens blasé about reshuffles

MUSCOVITES reacted with a mixture of apathy and cynicism to the unexpected dismissal of the Russian Government, predicting that the appointment of a new Prime Minister and Cabinet was unlikely to solve the country's problems.

Others were more doubtful that a change at the top would make much difference to the lives of people at the bottom.

someone gets the push, but the people will probably never learn the truth," said Andrei, a self-employed trader.

Washington: President Clinton sent President Yeltsin a terse and wary message of support as news of the sackings dominated the first day of Mr Clinton's African tour.

Despite the differing opinions about the merits of the government changes, nobody appeared concerned that the move could plunge Russia into a fresh period of political or economic instability.

European governments expressed surprise at Mr Yeltsin's decision and will watch to ensure economic reforms continue.

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# Critics stir tardy Brazil to tackle Amazon blazes

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI  
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZIL yesterday launched a belated rescue operation in the Amazon by deploying 1,000 firefighters and starting aerial spraying to tackle the flames that have engulfed nearly 20,000 square miles of highland savanna and rainforest.

The fires have raged uncontrolled through the northern Amazonian state of Roraima for ten weeks and a few hundred local firefighters equipped with two ageing helicopters have been unable to stop them spreading.

But international criticism of Brazil's nonchalant attitude to the worst Amazon fires this century seems to have spurred officialdom into action.

Water-carrying aircraft and dozens of helicopters fitted with 100-gallon water tanks were yesterday to begin spraying the worst affected cattle-farming region of Apatu.

"We are starting late, and it may take weeks to put out the



fires, but we realised that if we don't act now we will have an environmental catastrophe on our hands," said Major Edilson Oliveira, who heads the operation.

Neudo Compos, the state's Governor, said: "The fires are spreading so fast that, if we do not do something now, the entire state of Roraima will be wiped off the map."

Reynaldo Barbosa, who heads the National Institute of Amazon Research, a government body in charge of rainforest protection, also ex-

pressed alarm. "The fires have turned age-old trees and ecologically vital flora and fauna into charcoal... irreparable damage has been done." The carcasses of crocodiles, leopards and monkeys have been seen amid the debris near populated areas.

Local farmers who at this time of year burn forest cover to prepare cattle-grazing fields are partly to blame for the disaster, but the worst drought to have hit the Amazon this century is also responsible for the fires, which began in an agricultural district some 60 miles south of Boa Vista, the capital of Roraima.

But last week the fires spread to more sensitive rainforest areas, including the reserve inhabited by Yanomami Indians, the largest surviving Stone Age tribe.

Fires have also been detected in the ecological reserve around the village of Maracá, considered one of the most important sanctuaries of Amazonian flora and fauna.



Valdeia dos Santos, 15, surveying what the raging rainforest fires in the Amazon region of Brazil have done to his family's crops near Apatu

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Thousands ill in forest fire smog

Jakarta: Thousands of inhabitants of the Indonesian city of Samarinda have fallen ill because of thick smoke from forest fires in East Kalimantan province, the Antara news agency reported yesterday. Visibility dropped to just over 100 yards on Sunday as people put on face-masks to beat the choking smog. Several thousands are suffering from eye infections and respiratory ailments, including asthma and pneumonia, the agency said.

A senior health official urged people to stay indoors. The fires have destroyed several thousand acres of forest near Samarinda and farther south around the oil centre of Balikpapan, also enveloped in thick smoke. (Reuters)

### 1,000 Tamils die for road

Colombo: A radio broadcast by Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels admitted that more than 1,000 guerrillas have died in battles to defend a key northern highway, which the military has been trying to capture in a ten-month-old campaign. If captured, the highway would give the military a land route to the former rebel stronghold of Jaffna peninsula. The military now moves all men and material by sea and air to Jaffna. (Reuters)

### Gere backs hunger strike



Delhi: Richard Gere, left, yesterday backed the demands of six Tibetan hunger strikers that the United Nations appoint a special envoy on Tibet to resolve the territorial dispute with China. The Hollywood actor chairs the International Campaign for Tibet and is a disciple of the Dalai Lama's Tibetan Buddhism. He is a fierce critic of what he calls Beijing's "cultural genocide" in Tibet. (Reuters)

### Rwanda nuns kidnapped

Kigali: Hutu rebels have kidnapped seven nuns and killed 20 civilians in separate attacks. A military officer in Gisenyi, 60 miles northwest of here, said about 30 rebels attacked a church-run health centre, killing three civilians and taking seven nuns hostage. Two hours later, another 100 rebels raided Kanama, seizing the local government building ablaze and murdering 17 civilians. (AP)

### Communists take Moldova

Chisinau: Moldova's Communist Party, opposed to market reforms, came top in parliamentary elections with just over 30 per cent, according to the Central Election Commission. The nationalist Democratic Convention had 19.36 per cent, the centrist Movement for a Democratic and Prosperous Moldova 18.14 per cent and the nationalist Party of Democratic Forces 8.82 per cent. (Reuters)

### Russia jails missile spy

Moscow: A Russian military court sentenced an army officer to 12 years in a maximum-security prison for trying to sell secret data about Russia's missile forces to an American security agency. Major Igor Dudnik, who had served with the strategic missile group in the Urals, was convicted of "high treason in the form of espionage". (AP)

### Danish Cabinet reshuffle

Copenhagen: Three key ministers have retained their portfolios in the reshuffled centre-left Danish Government of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, right. (Christopher Follett writes). They are Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, Finance Minister Mogens Lykketoft and Economy Minister Marianne Jelved. The Social Democrat-led coalition narrowly won re-election on March 11.



### Seychelles President wins

Victoria: President René, 62, of the Seychelles was re-elected in a weekend poll with 66 per cent of the vote. His Seychelles People's Progressive Front won 30 of the 34 parliamentary seats. Official observers said the payment of large sums from social security funds before the vote had been "inopportune", but the vote had been free. (AFP)

### Car driver, 104, charged

Stockholm: A 104-year-old Swedish man jumped red lights, smashed into parked cars and mounted the kerb during an outing in his 1968 grey Ford Cortina, Swedish newspapers reported. They said the unnamed man could be the oldest person ever to face driving charges. (Reuters)

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# Pope 'at risk' from lack of medical help

THE Pope left Nigeria at the end of a three-day visit, leaving observers speculating whether he had performed a small miracle in surviving the trip, and amazed by the lack of medical provision made by the Vatican.

The pontiff arrived in Nigeria where there is no hospital that could cope with caring for him if he fell ill — accompanied only by a retired general practitioner and his assistant.

Already suffering from what medical sources said was a "disease related to Parkinsonism", the Pope, 77, endured temperatures of more than 40C (104F) in the shade and 98-100 per cent humidity on his gruelling three-day tour.

Yet for more than four hours in the sweltering heat of Oba, where he conducted Mass on Sunday, he was not provided with any water to drink. His Vatican entourage had also failed to bring any water for themselves. The papal bodyguards were forced to beg two bottles of mineral water from members of a British medical team laid on by the Nigerian Government. The team, provided by London-based company Global Medical Care, had been asked by the Nigerian military regime to provide an air ambulance and trauma team including a surgeon, an intensive care nurse and a paramedic, to ensure that they were able to evacuate the Pope if he fell ill.

But the team, led by Wim Kools, a Dutch doctor, was not given a medical briefing on the Pope's condition by his personal doctor, retired GP Renato Buzzonetti. Dr Kools, who has 18 years of experience in the tropics, first met Dr

## Bodyguards had to beg for water, Sam Kiley reports from Abuja

Buzzonetti during the Sunday Mass. Concerned that the Pope could dehydrate in the heat and humidity, the British doctors offered the Vatican team water for themselves and the Pope.

They were told that the pontiff, who occasionally slurred his speech and had trouble controlling a trembling left hand, did not require any water.

More worrying to observers was that the Vatican did not appear to know that the Nigerian Government had laid on trauma specialists to evacuate the Pope.

None of the normal protocols between doctors caring for a patient were observed. Dr Kools had no idea what, if any, medication the pontiff was taking — information which would have been vital in the event of a heart attack.

A cardiac arrest could have been brought on by the extreme heat. Dehydration was, Dr Kools said, the greatest short-term danger to the Pope.

"A normal person uses about three litres per day. In these conditions the consumption would at least double," he said yesterday.

He also expressed surprise that the Vatican had made no effort to inform him about the Pope's medical condition, although his Lear Jet had been

specially equipped with intensive care, life-support and monitoring systems.

Dr Buzzonetti yesterday confirmed that it was normal practice for the Pope to travel with one doctor who carried his standard GP's bag but had no special equipment with which to resuscitate a patient in the event of an emergency.

The Pope left Nigeria reiterating his calls on the Government of General Sani Abacha to respect human rights and advance the pace of democratisation in the country.

There was no indication yesterday afternoon about whether the Abuja junta had heeded the pontiff's requests for clemency for about 60 political prisoners. Members of the Cabinet looked set to snub the Pope and said privately that they did not know of the list, which had been presented to Chief Tom Ikimi, the Foreign Minister, as well as the military leader.



Choir members sing for the Pope in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, yesterday

# Pontiff driven on by firm belief in his mission

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope's ordeal in the heat and humidity of Nigeria over the past three days is a reminder of the hazards the ailing pontiff — who will be 78 in May — faces as he travels the globe. Yet the "Pilgrim Pope" insists on keeping up a gruelling schedule, travelling with his personal physician, Dr Renato Buzzonetti.

The Pope's apparent ability to defy conditions from icy rain to searing heat is due to three factors, according to Dr Buzzonetti: his tremendous willpower, his strong constitution and his belief in his mission. He is driven by what he sees as his mission to consolidate the Church and Christian values while also reaching out to other faiths in the run-up to the millennium. He says he "hopes to live to a hundred".

The trip to Nigeria — his eighty-second overseas journey since becoming Pope in 1978 — comes hard on the heels of his historic visit to Cuba in January, when he also endured a packed programme in high tempera-

tures. Later in the year he has trips scheduled to Mexico and Austria. "The Holy Father does suffer in hot and sticky climates," said Dr Corrado Manni, the Pope's anaesthetist. "But when he flies round the world he holds nothing back. It is hardly surprising if he looks tired sometimes."

Dr Manni and a team of surgeons led by Professor Francesco Crucitti are on constant standby at the Gemelli Hospital in Rome, part of the University of the Sacred Heart, where a papal suite is kept permanently ready.

Although visitors to Rome are often shocked by the Pope's physical decline, he has visibly rallied since Christmas, when he had to cancel Mass. The Vatican has never denied reports that he is suffering from a form of Parkinson's disease. He walks slowly and his speech is often slurred. But he appeared in good form before going to Nigeria, and walked unaided from his aircraft on arrival.

## Six police injured in Kenyan student riot

FROM GEORGE MWANGI IN NAIROBI

THOUSANDS of students, defying teargas, threw stones and burned cars yesterday, protesting against lower admission requirements to a medical school. One policeman was critically injured.

Witnesses said he collapsed after being hit on the head by a stone. Five more police were injured, three seriously, when they tried to break up the rioting crowd outside the University of Nairobi.

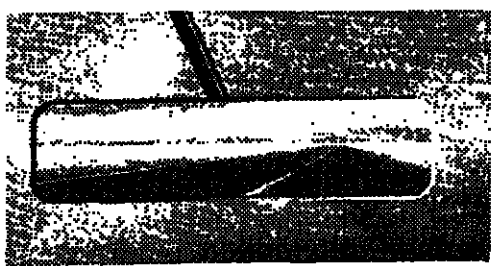
After a day of running battles, authorities ordered the closure of the university. About 3,000 students repeatedly chased away dozens of

riot policemen with stones and other missiles and then set fire to vehicles. They also badly beat a reporter from a newspaper owned by President Moi's Kenya African National Union party.

The university has said that high-school graduates with a C-plus average score will be eligible for admission to the College of Health Sciences. In the past, students were required to have a B-plus average.

Chris Bubo, the students' leader, said the authorities were cheapening the medical diploma.

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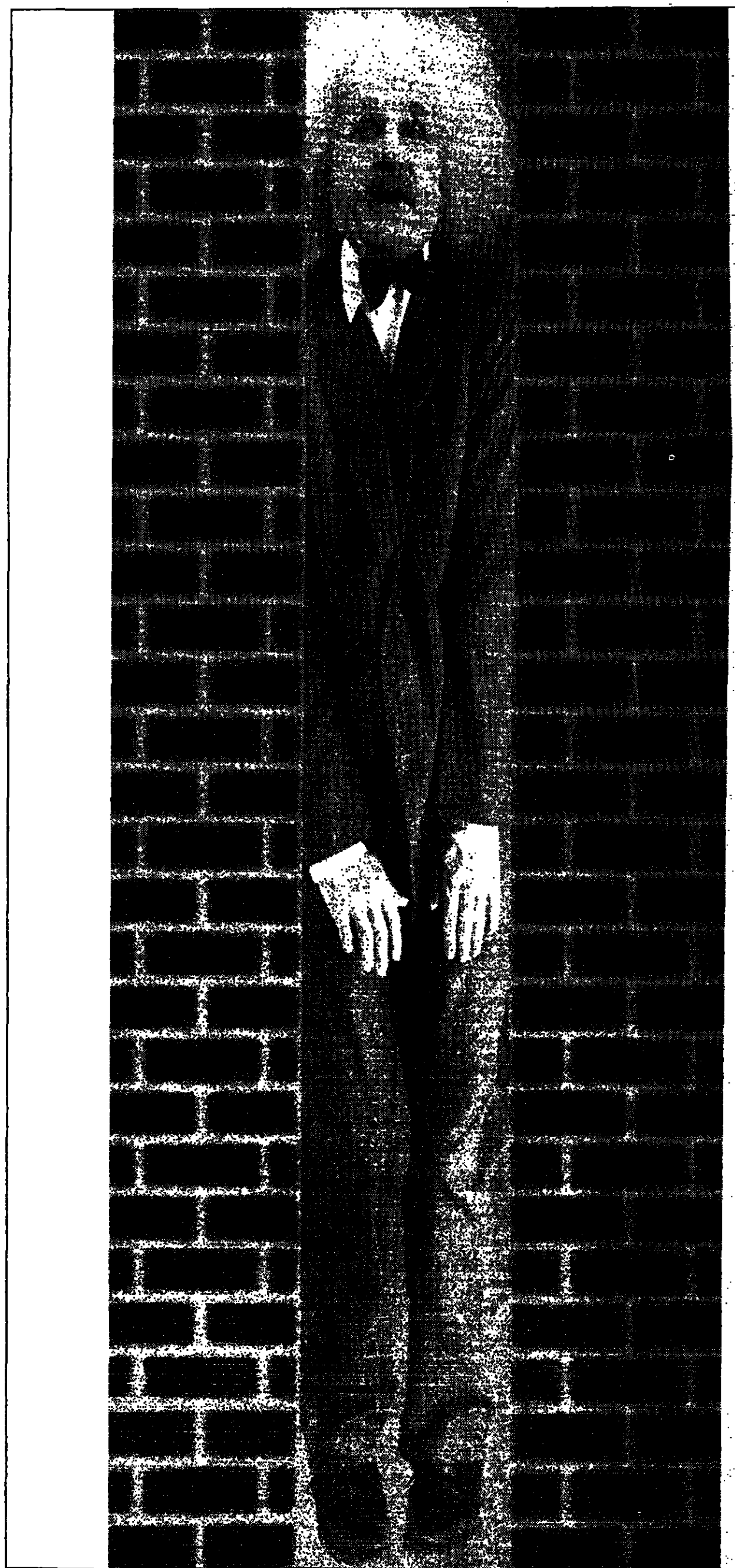
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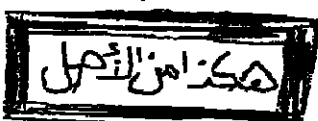
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# My struggle to die with dignity

Jane Macdonald is afflicted by terrible diseases. She tells Anjana Ahuja why she has taken a lead in the fight for euthanasia

Last week Jane Macdonald booked a facial, a manicure and a haircut. "As my body deteriorates," she reflects, "I want to take extra care of the bits that still look good." Jane, 49, has multiple sclerosis, breast cancer and osteoporosis. Multiple sclerosis, which strips the nerves of their myelin coating, casts the darkest shadow because its progress can be frighteningly swift. Within a few years, she has graduated from a walking stick to crutches, and her memory has wilted so much that once she failed to recognise herself in the mirror.

Her once-elegant 5ft 6in, 9-stone frame has shrunk to a little under 7 stones, a process accelerated by a low-fat diet which may, according to doctors, arrest the MS. Determined to avoid butter, margarine, cream and cooking oils, she gently rebuffs her husband Jonathan's chiding that she is overdoing it.

She has applied the same unwavering rigour to her views about death. "My absolute bottom line is that if I couldn't communicate, I wouldn't want to be alive," says Jane. She has even thought about how she would like it to be — at home, alone with Jonathan, using a sequence of anaesthetics and paralysing drugs that would put her to sleep painlessly and permanently.

But whoever carried out those last wishes would be committing a crime. Euthanasia is illegal, no matter how loving or dignified the final moments. Now Jane, who is featured in a documentary tonight, is devoting her remaining energy to trying to change the law. She has been seen as the natural successor to Annie Lindell, a fellow member of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society (VES), who died from motor neurone disease shortly after the High Court awarded her the right to choose the timing and means of her own death. Annie, a singer and former air stewardess, managed to focus attention on this emotive issue because she was beautiful, vivacious and articulate. She died in December of natural causes.

Jane, who became friends with Annie, is a perfect candidate to take up the baton. Despite her frailty she, too, is a striking woman, her neat, fine-boned features thrown into sharp relief by a short crop of light brown hair. Before she retired through ill-health, she held a senior post in the organisation that oversees the teaching of nurses. Her experience has turned her into an eloquent and persuasive advocate for, as the VES puts it, the right to die with dignity. "There aren't many areas of life in which I can be fruitful. But when it comes to talking about voluntary euthanasia, I am a media man's dream."

Jonathan Pincus, 60, an occupational psychologist, met Jane when he was teaching her "a dreadful abuse of power," she says with a smile, and the couple married in 1980. They have no children of their own, but Jonathan has two daughters, Daniela and Tamar, from his first marriage. He is even more forthright in his support for voluntary euthanasia. "It's a question of personal choice, which is terribly basic to my personal philosophy," he says. "If someone feels pain and indignity, it is our duty to provide a means by which they can end it, although, in Jane's case, I can imagine coaxing her to stay around just a little longer."

"But I can't imagine her wanting to go until she is in a pretty parlous state, and



Jane Macdonald is leading a campaign for euthanasia despite suffering from multiple sclerosis, breast cancer and osteoporosis. "If I couldn't communicate, I wouldn't want to be alive," she says.

by that time I would probably want her to go, too. It would almost be a joint decision, except that she has 51 per cent of the votes."

For now, the prognosis looks promising. She might even make it to 60. The low-fat diet appears to have slowed the progression of MS; after a mastectomy, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, the breast cancer is in remission. As well as Tamoxifen for the cancer, she takes drugs to treat the osteoporosis and to alleviate some symptoms of MS, such as spasms, night cramps and urinary problems. It may take her two hours to dress in the morning, but she can do it mostly unaided. Perhaps most important of all, she can still attend to her own personal needs. If she couldn't, she says, that might also prompt her to take her own life.

However, her definition of quality of life has become more flexible as she has deteriorated. Ten years ago, she says, she could not have imagined living like this. "I have tinnitus, and I choke on my food so I can't eat out," she says. "I might once have thought that using a wheelchair was unthinkable." She now uses one to get about outdoors.

She has contemplated suicide. "About 18 months ago I found myself looking longingly at tall buildings," she says. Now, she considers life worth living. "I think I lead a rich life, although it is becoming less so. But I can still love and be loved, and that's terribly important."

If voluntary euthanasia were legalised, might such changes of heart come too late? Her response is rational and considered: "As soon as I got these

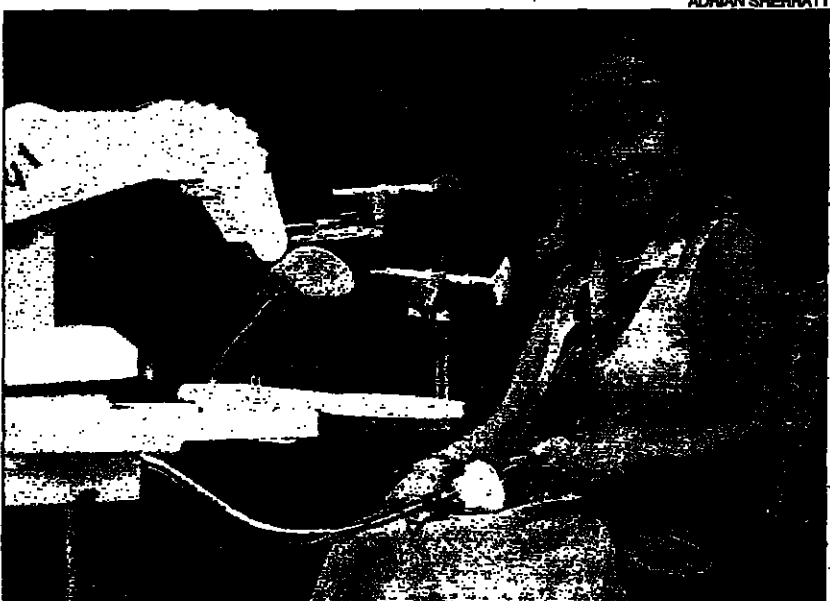
suicidal feelings, I went to the doctor to check whether the balance of my mind was disturbed. He prescribed antidepressants, which I shall probably be on for the rest of my life. I think I will know when I am ready to go."

"I also think that if euthanasia was legal, we would make it so difficult that I believe it would be safe. Doctors would be able to spot if the relatives were trying to bump granny off." She would like to see three doctors involved, comprising at least

one psychiatrist and one appropriate specialist.

Jane insists that she has never questioned why she has been beset by such physical misfortune. "A better question is, 'Why not me?'" she says with a shrug. "And what on earth have I got to feel sorry for? I have had a successful career, a great marriage and two wonderful stepdaughters. Some people never know that."

Instead, she considers herself lucky that she was not struck down in her youth. The



Annie Lindell won a High Court ruling on the method of her own death

first signs of MS, she thinks, appeared in 1976, when she was 27. She developed a sporadic problem with balance and started dragging her foot. She thought it might be a side-effect of giving up smoking.

Then a bout of incontinence struck. "I was in a lift at the time, and thank goodness I was on my own. I was absolutely terrified, but managed to go and get paper towels without anyone seeing me. It was the most humiliating thing that had ever happened to me," she says.

By the mid-Eighties, she was falling over more frequently. The incident that most sticks in her mind was falling on a pedestrian crossing in The Strand, in London, during the rush hour one winter. "I could hear the traffic shriek to a halt. I couldn't move. A man pulled me to the side of the road and I lay in the gutter with my face cold and wet. People just walked by, even though I was quite well-dressed."

She didn't tell Jonathan, even though he had already noticed how Jane would clutch at furniture to steady herself. "I suppose I was ashamed," she says. "I put it down to clumsiness or stupidity, to Jane being daft again."

"Then I began to get other symptoms. I felt like I had an iron girdle on, and one leg became weaker than the other." She began to wonder whether she was a hypochondriac, even though, during this time, her sister Kate, who is one year older, telephoned from her home in California to say that she had had MS diagnosed. By 1987, Jane's illness had been diagnosed. To outsiders, the couple

seem to have an indomitable spirit, fuelled by humour and gratitude for what they do have. But there have been tears. "Jane wept when she left her job, and again when she acquired a walking stick," says Jonathan. She defiantly chose the most stylish, expensive one she could find. Now it is the minutiae of everyday life that get her down. She has largely given up shopping because she has trouble signing a credit card slip. She gets frustrated when her voice-activated computer, which has long replaced her uncooperative fingers for writing poetry, doesn't respond. She loved dining out, but this, too, is a forgotten pleasure.

Jonathan says: "If Jane chokes and coughs up food at home, that's no big deal. In a restaurant, it's not pleasant." They tend not to eat with friends any more.

If the law remains unchanged when Jane faces her final hour, both Jonathan and Jane's mother are prepared to grant her wish, even if it leaves them facing a murder or manslaughter charge. She says her father, a retired brigadier and committed Christian, probably would not attend. She would like her ashes to be buried among past members of the Macdonald family in Glenquhart, three miles from Loch Ness.

"If I am told there is no space in the graveyard," says Jonathan, "then I shall come back with a hole in my pocket, with the ashes in it, and walk around in circles until my pocket is empty."

© Fighting for Dignity, TV, tonight, 10.40pm.

## BODY AND MIND ON THURSDAY

Five times more men suffer from a benignly enlarged prostate than from cancer. They too need treatment. Dr Thomas Stuttford reports

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## What to do when you have a stroke

FIRST Princess Margaret and now the train robber Ronald Biggs, aged 68, have had a stroke in the past month. A woman friend of Biggs describes his troubles as exhaustion. His son, Michael, says that his father is unable to speak and has trouble moving his right arm. This combination makes a diagnosis of "exhaustion" seem either euphemistic or optimistic.

Stroke is the third biggest killer in the United Kingdom. A third of the 120,000 patients will have a second stroke within five years, and a half will have been left with significant disability. Recently a campaign, Stop A Stroke, was launched in London. The meeting was addressed by Professor Charles Forbes of Dundee University.

Some of the stroke victims will have such a minor attack that the symptoms clear within a day or two and additionally, there will also be those who have not had a stroke but a TIA, stroke-like symptoms that last for a matter of minutes or hours. A patient who has had a minor stroke, or even a TIA, has the most to gain from careful treatment to prevent a second episode. Despite this, Professor Forbes told the conference that in the UK only one patient in ten was adequately treated after a first attack.

Patients should expect to

have their blood pressure taken after a stroke, and to have a full biochemical and haematological assessment so that any anaemia or other abnormalities in their blood cells, as well as biochemical problems such as a raised cholesterol, can be excluded. However, Professor Forbes says: "Many of our patients

### MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

who have had a stroke are getting a pretty shoddy deal. Everyone who has had a stroke has the right to have a good medical opinion, and at least a CT scan within 48 hours." Professor Forbes thought that patients should also have the blood flow through their carotid arteries measured, and an echocardiogram and an ECG.

The professor was supported by a stroke sufferer, Donal O'Kelly, a barrister, who at the age of 43 had a stroke early one morning while in court. The casualty officer failed to recognise the significance of his barrister's robes, noted his slurred speech and assumed that perhaps as he had an Irish name, was in

funny clothes and was incoherent, that he must be drunk from the excess of the night before. Left untreated in a side cubicle, his level of consciousness began to fade and only with considerable difficulty was he able to attract attention, and have his oxygen restored.

Mr O'Kelly was paralysed on both sides and could not talk or swallow. Within a week, movement in his right side began to return, although there was little improvement on his left side for many months. During his recovery, Mr O'Kelly's moods fluctuated. When cheerful and his laughter infectious, he was allowed to mix with the other patients; when unreasonably fearful, he was quickly hidden behind curtains. For the first six weeks, he was fed through a tube but in time recovered sufficiently to be transferred to Bart's.

FIVE years later, Mr O'Kelly walks and talks without any obvious disability, although in the first hospital his family had been told he would never walk again. Mr O'Kelly had to fight such a battle to receive the care which has enabled him to return to normal life that he now runs a charity (Different Strokes), aimed at helping the 10 per cent of sufferers who are not elderly. Victims, as well as modifying their lifestyle in general

and diet in particular, will also need to fill their medicine chest. However, small strokes, the patients may need drugs to reduce high blood pressure. If the stroke was the result of a clot, and not a bleed, they should take aspirin whose action is enhanced if taken with an anti-clotting agent, Persantin dipyrida-

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From icon new wave green warrior



# From pop icon to new wave green warrior

Andrew Ridgeley former star of Wham! has a new identity as an eco-campaigner. Interview by Bill Frost

His hairline has receded sharply and there are life-in-the-fast-lane furrows on the perfect face that once stared so innocently from a million bedroom wall posters. But as retired pop icon, Andrew Ridgeley has looked after himself rather well.

The hell-raising days of drinking, clubbing and womanising are long gone; so too are any ambitions to rekindle the phenomenal success he enjoyed as one half of Wham! — the British double act of the Eighties with sales in its heyday of more than 30 million records. The one-time teenage heart-throb has swapped the limelight for obscurity and transformed himself from rake to reclusive eco-warrior.

Ridgeley, 35, has given up his peripatetic lifestyle — Los Angeles one day, Monaco the next — for an isolated farmhouse in North Cornwall and a stable relationship with a woman and her child by a previous partner.

An accomplished surfer, now he campaigns on behalf of a pressure group dedicated to cleaning up our beaches and coastal waters.

"We have a responsibility to future generations, a responsibility to keep the sea clean," says the man who co-wrote *Careless Whisper*. "Our group, Surfers Against Sewage, is a frontline ecological lobbying force, and I am completely committed to the cause and all the unorthodox tactics we are sometimes forced to use."

The primrose-yellow farmhouse near Wadebridge, where he lives with Keren Woodward, a member

of the all-girl group Bananarama, is hard to find — a labyrinth of narrow lanes protects the couple from the outside world. An ancient labrador and feisty little terrier make up the final line of defence.

Ridgeley chose the location carefully and the locals, normally ill-disposed towards incumbers, protect his privacy. Ask for directions and you will be told that he has moved.

Bruising encounters with the media in the past have made Ridgeley understandably wary. Parodied by partner George Michael by *Spinning Image* as a pair of dancing buttocks, dismissed by showbusiness writers as "the untalented half of Wham!", and mocked for his attempt to go solo, he is now determined to regain some of his dignity.

Crashing Formula Three racing cars, squiring expensive women and stuffing shuttlecocks down tight white shorts before going on stage are a dim, distant and unwelcome memory. Ridgeley now listens to the shipping forecast and prays for waves and clean water.

"I started surfing a few years ago, but it was a while before I realised that there was a problem with the water quality. Then, my brother and I both got badly sick when we surfed off Newquay."

"Excrement and sanitary towels were floating in the water — no wonder we both became ill. I just thought something must be done and Surfers Against Sewage was the only organisation willing to take up the fight."

There is a messianic light in his dark brown eyes when he speaks of



Looking green and clean, Andrew Ridgeley today during a break at a surfing competition

the sea. But then surfing saved Ridgeley — he took up the sport when all hope of being a solo rock star or racing driver had gone.

After Wham! split, George Michael went on to scale even greater heights of creative and financial success. In stark contrast, Ridgeley appeared to be on collision course with personal disaster — a man with a mission to self-destruct.

Keren Woodward's influence and the affection he has for Tom — her ten-year-old son by model David Scott-Evans — have transformed Ridgeley from juvenile party animal to concerned adult

and parent. "It is our duty to enable the young to swim in the sea in safety — the discharge of sewage into our coastal waters is unacceptable," he says.

Keren, as suspicious of the press as her partner, will not be drawn on his involvement with Surfers Against Sewage. "Don't ask me about that, I am not really involved," she says, hovering watchfully in the kitchen.

Mainly, she is protective of her man. His bad image went before him but she was willing to forget the tabloid headlines. In the past, he was only seen with the most

desirable women on his arm. "Sex is my driving force," he once said. It would be cruel to confront him with the past today. He has chosen rural tranquility and monogamy in favour of hedonism and excess.

The pine table in the couple's spotless kitchen is strewn with correspondence, perhaps royalty statements or tax demands — Ridgeley still makes £10,000 a year from *Careless Whisper* alone. But how much money he has after the profligate years remains unclear.

Five years ago he spoke of leading a more frugal lifestyle. "I'm not rich now — I have to work for a living,



Andrew Ridgeley and George Michael in their Wham! heyday

it's as simple as that. But I don't need a nine-to-five job, it's not as bad as that."

According to Simon Napier-Bell, the former manager of Wham!, Ridgeley made about £2 million when he retired after four years at the top, aged 23. He probably made another £10 million from record sales in 1986.

However, industry gossip has it that much of his fortune was wasted on wine, women and racing cars. His final commercial venture — a restaurant and bar in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire — sank without trace.

Ridgeley has said that the Wham! years left him a comfortable financial legacy. "When I say a legacy, I mean royalties — and long may they continue!"

He says today that he is living "a dream existence" and never gets bored. "There are so many things one can do down here. We thoroughly enjoy the countryside and the lifestyle here," he told *Hello!* in a recent interview.

However, on the day we meet he seems distracted. There are no waves on his favourite beach, just a listless swell lapping jagged rocks.

Naturally enough, the conversation turns again to surfing and clean water. "There is still such a long way to go before we have achieved our goals," he says.

"The problem is exacerbated every year with the influx of holidaymakers in the summer months. The fact is that we cannot go on discharging sewage into the sea without paying a very high

price. We in Surfers Against Sewage may be regarded as eco-warriors, but what is wrong with that? Surfing may seem like a hedonistic business — in fact, we are in the front line, protecting the environment and trying to get a high profile for our cause."

"You do what you can to improve the environment, to ensure that the public knows the extent of the pollution around our shores. Someone must fight to avert the catastrophe by showing the water companies there is more at stake here than just the profit motive — it's our health and the health of future generations."

So has Andrew Ridgeley changed? Ironically, it always seemed as though George Michael would be the one to withdraw from the world.

As Simon Napier-Bell said: "Andrew loved every minute of Wham! and he created it as a great adventure."

"But George was always very introverted about the music business. Whenever we went out for meals together, all George wanted to talk about was his songs."

"With Andrew, things were a lot more relaxed. He would talk about motor racing and his girlfriends."

Today, Ridgeley himself is unwilling to speak of his previous incarnation as brawling satyr. The past is another country he would sooner forget. "I think I have been accepted here in Cornwall, despite the insularity of the community. This is a place I care about, a place we must protect for the future."

## 'Surfers Against Sewage' is a lobbying force I am behind'

# Never mind the Oscar, where's my freebie?



Matt Damon: a presenter as well as a nominee

Simon Hounsou had a vivid demonstration last night of what it means to be a movie star at Oscar time. Six years ago he was homeless on the streets of Paris. Two years ago he scored a lucky break, being chosen to play the lead in Steven Spielberg's *Amistad*.

To the dismay of many, he was not nominated for an Academy Award for his role as leader of a slave-ship mutiny, but he was asked to be a presenter — the first known Oscar appearance by a citizen of Benin, in West Africa.

In return for intoning a few words as they rolled up the teleprompter ("The nominations are... The winner is...") Hounsou received what must be the world's ultimate goody basket: a wicker hamper groaning with sponsors' gifts worth thousands of dollars, including an £542 Tag Heuer sports watch, a £160 Mont Blanc fountain pen and a £74 Steiff teddy bear.

Tacky? Somewhat. More useful than a statuette? Undoubtedly. In fact, Hounsou and his fellow presenters may be forgiven for thinking they were the real winners last



In return for intoning a few words Oscar night presenters can walk away with gifts such as a Mont Blanc fountain pen

The unexpected winners at the Academy Awards ceremony are the presenters, says Giles Whittell

night. For 30 seconds' work they were guaranteed global exposure and handsome take-home presents without the prospect of becoming nervous wrecks. But there is more to these hampers than an innocent expression of the Academy's gratitude.

It was no coincidence that while this year's Oscars boasted no notable black nominees, last night's show fielded three high-profile black presenters — Hounsou, Denzel Washington and Samuel L. Jackson. Their appearances revealed the Oscar presenters' real role in the age of TV ratings: to boost the star turnout in carefully calculated ways so that the Oscar broad-

cast satisfies each ethnic, demographic and pop cultural niche in its huge audience.

Antonio Banderas, we can assume, was there for the viewing pleasure of Hispanics and women aged 28 to 38. Drew Barrymore was chosen for her large cross-gender teenage fan base. Martin Scorsese lent gravitas, which the Oscar organisers crave. Comedian Mike Myers was on board to undermine that gravitas and Matt Damon was a presenter as well as a nominee because he is the hottest name in town and something had to get him on stage.

Of these, only the Damon wunderkind had anything to



Gift: Tag Heuer watch

do with the year's big Oscar races, but all were crucial to producing a please-all television ratings juggernaut. Which is where the gift baskets come in. The self-important Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which runs the Oscars, likes to have its pick of suitable talent

when choosing presenters. But it dislikes the thought of paying them. Brand names keen to be associated with celebrities have willingly filled the breach.

This year sunglasses, perfumes, cognac, silk scarves, champagne, CD players and two flavours of vodka were gift-wrapped for each presenter along with the watch and pen and teddy bear.

Even for icons such as Sean Connery, who presumably has everything, such trinkets should make handy Christmas presents. But there is one quid pro quo: presenters have to look the part.

"It began ten years ago," says Fred Hayman, the official fashion policeman for the Oscars. "The stars had been dressing down and for a while it was hip to be Plain Jane. But that was before my time." Short, dapper, 75 and Swiss, Mr Hayman wears wrap-

around shades even inside his sprawling Rodeo Drive boutique, and speaks with a clipped trace of a European accent. When reminded of the occasional sartorial stunts presenters and nominees have pulled — a frock made of gold credit cards, a £10 outfit from The Gap — he becomes impatient.

"That was not appropriate," he snaps. "They won't do that again. It would just be too embarrassing." He has no formal sanctions in his arsenal: just cajolery. "Stars are individuals," he says. "They can do as they please, but they have agents, managers. It has worked. The glamour of Hollywood is intact again."

But only just. The most successful piece of product placement in the maelstrom of Oscar hype this year followed the humiliation of a Golden Globe winner caught literally with her pants down when she should have been at the podium last month. Within days, every Oscar presenter and nominee had received in the past a bottle of a well-known anti-diarrhoea drug.

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# Yeltsin leaps into the abyss

## These sackings can only make Russia even more weak and dangerous, says John Lloyd

Earlier this month Boris Yeltsin was given a report prepared for him by the Interior Ministry — whose police make up the largest security force in Russia. It rehearsed a catalogue of horrors — increasing disaffection from government, widespread evasion of all responsibilities to the State, especially tax payment; despair about the future. Well-known themes in today's Russia.

But one element was new, and very alarming. The report claimed that significant numbers of the population — generally young men — would be prepared to take up arms against the State if things got much worse. Armed insurrection, it seemed, could be in the offing.

This intelligence, not published in Russia, galvanised the presidency. It proved to President Yeltsin that the situation was dangerously unstable. It revealed that the reform process was not just resented, but actively hated — as were the reformers. Something had to change, and be seen to change.

The political process in Russia is often represented as a struggle between conservatism and reform. The element exists, to be sure, but under the Yeltsin presidencies, it has been rendered ever more shapeless. The dominance of clans clustered round the main financial and industrial groups — such as Logozov, headed by Boris

Russian gas monopolist the Prime Minister once commanded. He asked him to resign. Chernomyrdin refused. He was thus fired. With one bound, Yeltsin is free once more. But it will be a precarious freedom. His acting Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, is a reformer — for what that description is worth — but wholly without a power base of his own, and thus entirely dependent on the President (which is how he likes it). The man who has kept reform on the rails since 1991, Anatoli Chubais — specifically named, with Chernomyrdin and Anatoli Kulikov, the Interior Minister, as individuals dismissed together with the whole Cabinet — is out, following a downgrading a few months ago after allegations of corruption.

Yeltsin wants to dilute and tame discontent by showing himself the master — and the ouster — of the corrupt politicians of Moscow's inner circle. He wants again to be seen as Boris the Slayer of a governing class which has lost the people's trust; able to govern until the end of his term; even, perhaps, to stand for a third (unconstitutional) presidential term, if his health holds out.

But it is the last thing Russia needs. It puts into the political arena vengeful men who are more determined than before to recover the power they need to bolster their fortunes — and to protect themselves against charges of corruption brought by their political enemies. It will put the budget once more at the hostage of power moves. It will shake the fragile and marginal recovery in the economy, as a grudging little growth gets under way.

Will it save Yeltsin? For the moment: he controls, still, the levers of state power and force. But he has, for years, been surrounded by flatterers and yes-men — and he has governed less and less, preferring to retreat into one of his many homes to fish, hunt and drink with his cronies.

In that environment, it seems, he has come to believe that he, and only he, can save Russia. He has, to be sure, some claim for assisting Russian independence in the past. But he is now a man of rapidly falling powers and rapidly declining popularity, whose broadcast yesterday his assumption of executive power was shaky and edited together — because he cannot sustain a continuous broadcast of several minutes.

Boris Yeltsin can no longer run Russia. He has fired the men who, however incompetently and corruptly, did. He has leapt into an abyss; we do not know how the pieces will fall. But we do know that it will weaken Russia, and make it more dangerous at the same time.

John Lloyd is associate editor of the New Statesman.

Large numbers were ready to take up arms against the State



# A time to die on screen

I have a piece of Mexican pottery, a traditional earthenware plaque of three faces. At the centre is a young, smooth face. It looks through another face, which is split in half on either side of it like a rind being peeled away. The second face is old and deeply wrinkled, and framed in its turn by halves of another face. This third, outermost face, is a skull.

The meaning of the piece is clear: it is a memento mori, a robust reminder of the way we all go, crafted in a country which still sells sugar skulls on the Day of the Dead. But it also means the reverse: that we must never forget that the old were once young, and the dead once lived.

Every skull contains within it a bygone baby, just as every baby will one day be a skeleton. These are hard, strong lessons, but worth learning if you can muster the nerve and the humility to accept the grisly, playful Mexican truth. I have to admit that this particular plaque does not live permanently on my desk.

As a matter of fact, it lives by the television, and this could hardly be more appropriate. A small storm is raging round the forthcoming BBC series *The Human Body*, to be broadcast in May and presented by Lord Winston. It takes the seven physical ages as its theme, and in the final programme the main subject dies. This should not be a surprise, but the furor arises because — with his own consent and his family's — he dies right in front of us, on screen.

Robert Winston wrote powerfully in this newspaper defending the programme. He says it is done with maturity, responsibility, and delicacy and constitutes a tribute to the dead man's courage and the achievement by all concerned of a "good death".

A howl of protest rose. The *Daily Mail* said the scene was "sure to distress recently bereaved families". The National Viewers and Listeners' Association demanded that the BBC reconsider the programme and averred, sight unseen, that the programme would not "take on board the sadness, grief and emotion involved". The spokesman added: "I wonder what the people connected with the person who has died will feel when the programme goes out. I don't think it is appropriate. This righteous desire to spare strangers hypothetical pain is curious; even though Lord Winston assures us that the widow approves the broadcast,

We should be glad that this death, at least, won't be trivialised by television

the Viewers and Listeners' Association thinks she should not, and a spokesman for Cruise Bereavement Care said that warnings should be transmitted before the film. Elsewhere, a more serious commentator said that there is "nothing to be gained by watching the death of a stranger on television", because the experience will not be fully real to viewers, and because the medium is "inherently sensational" and will inevitably be encouraged to screen other deaths, "each more outré than the last". And Robert Robinson, writing in the *London Evening Standard*, strikingly argues that however delicately you do it, with however clear a permission, to watch death is voyeurism — "a kind of theft", because you win the right to see such moments only by paying "the high price of actual involvement... and that belongs to the man's family alone".

This is a debate worth having. Oddly enough, it is better to have it now than after we have seen the programme. Once it is screened, the issues will be confused by reviewers' questions of production and aesthetic merit, and by a natural unwillingness to say anything remotely critical of the real family involved. But now, talking about it in a vacuum, we can speak of principle: Are we over-sensitised about death? Do we want to break the taboo by showing how it is on television? If not, why not?

Take, first of all, the objection that it might upset other recently bereaved families. With all possible delicacy, I have to say that I think this is patronising baloney. The portrayal of a dignified, loving, gentle and expected death, within a close community, is less likely to be upsetting than any average evening's television. Drama, news, and even comedy, feed endlessly off death. Somebody who has recently stood by a grave is far more likely to be upset by a grisly thriller about morgues and post-mortems, or by Harry

Enfield's "Mr Dead" coffin sketches, than by Lord Winston's gentle, doctorly approach. We allow ourselves to trivialise death in comedy and zap past corpses and near-corpses in the news. We speculate flippantly about what scripted and will be brought to the characters played by soap stars who have really died; we thrill ourselves with autopsies and exhumations and hospital drama. It seems hard that an attempt to take one death seriously should meet with such pious outrage.

Robert Robinson's argument about "a form of theft" is more subtle and persuasive. The passing of a spirit has always been seen as something solemn and significant. You could argue that a man's unique death is diminished by the phantom presence of several million craning strangers.

saying "Is he gone yet?" But you can also argue that because "Paul", the dying man, fully understood what he was doing, then this programme is not a form of theft but a form of gift. His bequest to the nation could be considerable: a reminder to a generation fed on violent images that most deaths are neither violent nor premature, but a natural passage. We need this reminder. Our perceptions have been so distorted by film and television that it is not unknown for modern children, told of a death, to say "Who shot him?"

It should be noted that Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the hospice movement, welcomes the screening, and says that dying is as natural as being born, that the dying need help and support, and that it should be a family affair. Somebody has to reiterate these human truths because modern pagans have allowed the fear of death to grow beyond reason: we hide it in hospital technology, fight it uselessly for too long, and cripple ourselves with embarrassment trying not to mention it socially. This last is a shamefully British disease. I once met an Irish friend after some years, knowing that

he had lost a child in the interim, and found myself dumbly unable to mention it. Leaving him, I banged my head against a wall for a while then walked back in to the room and said: "I'm sorry. It's because I'm English. Start again." Then we talked about it. If this televised death helps ease that inhibition, then we may take it as a gift, and be thankful.

The other, really interesting thing about the debate is not what it reveals about death, but what it reveals about our opinion of television. The constant tone among the objectors is of contempt: television, "cheapens", is "inherently sensational", "can only degrade", turns everything into showbiz and is a "slippery slope", where every rule broken opens the gates for something worse. It "recycles suffering as entertainment", and its viewers are beer-swilling, channel-surfing slobs who will munch crisps while watching the solemn moment.

There is truth in all these allegations; indeed, I have used most of them myself whenever I rail against the televising of court proceedings. Nor would I allow most directors within a brick's throw of my own life, even for the oily assurance that it would "help others". It is impossible to deny that a great deal of television is now morally and aesthetically revolting. We have become used to the sneering, betrayals of fly-on-the-wall documentary, the obscene thick-skinned laddishness of light entertainment, the voyeuristic horrors of *The Jerry Springer Show* and *Oprah* and their British clones, and the insatiable appetite of TV drama for all that is psychopathic.

This is why Lord Winston should not wonder why people are leery of his perfectly serious, well-intentioned programme. It is on television, that is why. It has been damned purely by association with the medium: a medium where in the past 15 years even the publicly-funded BBC has been pressured into believing that its decent and careful programmes are not enough, and that it has to compete desperately for ratings at the tartest level it can find.

That, not the death film, is what should be worrying us. Television can be a high art and a force for good. But it gets harder every day to remember that.

# Libby Purves

# Adventures of Tony in Euroland

## Anatole Kaletsky

### warns Blair not to trust the French

When Tony Blair goes to Paris today to address the French National Assembly he will be speaking in a strictly British capacity and not as the temporary President of Europe. This is just as well, since the French Government has repeatedly expressed its disdain for Mr Blair's pretensions to be seen as a leader of Europe. As Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, said on Sunday: "The only way to be a leading country in Europe is to belong to the euro-zone."

The single currency is now a fact of life. The final meeting of European central bank governors which must confirm the process of convergence and appoint the 11 founder members of EMU will take place today in Frankfurt, as Mr Blair speaks in Paris. On Friday morning, the last remaining bulwark of Eurosceptic wishful thinking will collapse, when the Bundesbank submits its report to the German parliament recommending that EMU should go ahead and that the mark should be abolished.

Economic and Monetary Union (as we must now learn to call the single currency arrangement) will not just be a single monetary zone. The single currency, single interest rate policy and the new European Central Bank will produce a full-scale merger of the European economies into a new kind of supranational political conglomerate.

Britain has refused to take part in this economic merger and has therefore stayed out of EMU. This means that Britain will not be a shareholder, and that Mr Blair cannot expect a seat on the board of directors, as the French keep pointing out. This is all perfectly obvious and perfectly fair. The mystery is why anyone in Britain should object, or even care, about "losing influence", or "being left out".

Economically, the new EMU-zone, now generally described in financial markets as "Euroland", will naturally be very much bigger than Britain. But, unless size is seen as a virtue in its own right, Euroland will not be a particularly attractive merger partner. Since Britain will be Euroland's single most important export market, it will be very much in the interests of the EMU members to preserve EU-wide free trade.

Britain's standards of economic performance cannot be expected to match those attained by Germany and France in the past. With Italy, Spain and Portugal as founder-members of EMU, and with Greece now offered a virtual guarantee of joining, Euroland will be nothing like the expanded, D-mark zone once imagined by the Bundesbank and still officially advertised by Helmut Kohl. Once Greece joins the single currency, and claims its seat on the European Central Bank, the four Mediterranean scoundrels will have the same number of votes as Germany and its three erstwhile monetary allies — The Netherlands, Austria and Luxembourg.

The balance of power will be held by three small countries — Ireland, Finland and Belgium — and the one major country which has emerged yet again as the undisputed champion of European diplomacy, France.

EMU was always a French inspired project and as the starting day approaches the extraordinary determination in Paris to push through this political and economic merger is becoming easier to understand. EMU was always designed to "lock" Germany into Western Europe and eliminate the monetary dominance of the Bundesbank, but it also looks like achieving much more than that. Because Germany will enter the single currency at a time when its domestic costs are still exceptionally high, German industry will be hobbled for many years ahead, offering tremendous competitive opportunities for the industries of France, northern Italy and other advanced regions of Europe.

Even more importantly, especially from the French standpoint, the political design of EMU institutions, based on one country, one vote, and making no additional allowance for national populations or economic power, will place Germany and its North European allies in a natural minority on any issue over which they disagree with France.

This brings us back to the question of political power and influence on the global stage. Joining EMU will undoubtedly boost the global influence of France, just as it will diminish that of Germany. But what would it do for Britain? Even assuming that maximising global influence (as opposed to national freedom of manoeuvre) is a major priority for Britain, Mr Blair should ask himself (and perhaps M. Strauss-Kahn) a simple question: "Who has more influence on world events — the Governor of a large American state, such as New York, California or Texas — or the Prime Minister of a major independent nation such as Canada or Japan?"

# Royal secret

PRINCE MICHAEL of Kent is making secret trips to that most troubled land, Russia. Having learnt the lingo, the Prince, a cousin and lookalike of the assassinated Tsar Nicholas II, returned home last week after his third visit tending to the child, burn victims of Moscow's streets. In his charitable endeavours, the big bear has teamed up with two new friends: Norma Major and Naina Yeltsin, the formidably constructed wife of bad Boris. "Prince Michael is wonderful with the children, many of whom are not a pretty sight," says Carolyn Cripps, of the charity Friends of Russian Children. "He sits on their beds and chats away in Russian in a very relaxed manner. He comes in a private capacity and is very unassuming." Mrs Major has been equally humble. She has organised the sending of linen and toys to Moscow after visiting the victims in hospital. Naina Yeltsin has been a little less keen to assume a proletarian role, but she will visit London in May for an opera fundraising bash at Drapers' Hall. Assuming, of course, her old man has not been turfed out of the Kremlin, stiff vodka in shaky hand.

Still, I hope Prince Michael has no plans to emigrate. He has become involved in *The Potential of Russia*, a business magazine, and is now patron of a museum paying tribute to the old Russia, which, with regal enthusiasm, collects everything down to the late Tsar's dinner-service.



the telly: we shut all the windows and still couldn't hear it because of the racket outside. The dogs don't like it either. Might he not find Southend more congenial?

# So Derry rude

THE Lord Chancellor is having second thoughts about allowing even a select group of visitors admire his new pad. Lord Irvine of Lairg has instructed his private office to ring up guests who had accepted invitations for his little soiree to inform them that their presence is no longer required. A senior barrister, who was looking forward to attending the Woman-kind Worldwide official public opening, was surprised to hear that he had been classed a safety hazard. "They called me just beforehand and told me I was disinvited. They said they had put

so much furniture in the apartments that there wasn't enough room for all the people. The fire safety people were worried. It is the height of rudeness." Quite out of character.

# Home run

AS Boris Yeltsin clears out his Cabinet for spring, members of the Romanov dynasty prepare to step into the breach. Last December Yeltsin said he was ready to welcome back descendants of the imperial family, 80 years after they were turfed out and shot. He promised them a "formal status", including a role in state events. The clan were keeping a close eye on events yesterday (rarely have they had so much fun since the pogroms). Prince Rostislav Romanov, a decent bloke, tells me that a restored monarchy would be the perfect balm for troubled times. "The country needs steadiness, which is why there should be a referendum on restoration," he says. "The Russian people should be able to decide democratically, whether to have us back."

# French lessons

BRUSSELS-dwellers have a stern new schoolmistress. Jacques Santer, the President of the Euro-



pean Commission, has appointed one Martine Reicherts as his chief spokeswoman, and on her first day yesterday she alarmed Angophiles by demanding all-French briefings. Several are digging out their old Linguaphone tapes.

◆ BAGGING a peerage has clearly helped Helena Kennedy to nurture her social conscience. The Labour QC, who now deliques in the hands Baroness Kennedy of



IT seems to offer few dramatic possibilities, but a battle of the babes has broken out for the lead role in the film *Tomb Raider*. Liz Hurley, right, is fighting it out with Rhona Mitra, a Roedeann dropout who advertised the computer game upon which the flick is based. Rhona thought the role was hers, but oddly Miss Hurley wants to play the all-action archaeologist, Lara Croft. Teenage boys, brimming with testosterone, will be excited; but this will not be one to trouble Oscars judges.

JASPER GERARD





## THE YELTSIN COUP

Good theatre but poor politics

Boris Yeltsin was once a keen basketball player, and still enjoys wrongfooting his opponents. His dismissal of the entire Russian Government yesterday left the country and its bickering politicians bemused, and briefly handed back the initiative to the President. But his *coup de théâtre* may prove less dramatic than it first appeared, and could prove costly in the long run not only to the Russian economy but also to Mr Yeltsin's own dwindling authority. The stock exchange fell sharply on the news, and Russia was forced to postpone its first eurobond issue this year. Pressing decisions, too long put off because of Mr Yeltsin's illnesses, suffer a further wait until a new Government is in place. And after a brief hiatus for political regrouping the succession struggle will resume.

Mr Yeltsin's move follows a familiar pattern. Despite typically mendacious official statements that his health is "superb", few Russians are fooled. They know that his respiratory infection is only the latest in a series of afflictions that have kept him away from his desk for long periods and left vital affairs of state to drift. In the past he has bounced back, demonstrating the smack of firm government by sacking an unpopular official or denouncing his ministers in a rumbustious live television broadcast.

His aim is to show himself in touch with the prevailing discontent and ready to cut through self-serving bureaucracy. But such populism yields diminishing returns. The offending ministers disappear for a few weeks, only to resurface later. A brief, well-publicised attempt is made to tackle such intractable issues as tax collection, local corruption and military reform before inertia and self-interest overwhelm good intentions. The President runs out of energy and voters run out of patience.

The dismissal of the entire Government may look like a more desperate response to a

more desperate deadlock. It was clearly prompted by Mr Yeltsin's fear of rivals growing too strong in his absence, and his pique at remarks by Viktor Chernomyrdin, his stolid, dependable Prime Minister, which hinted at previously well-disciplined ambition to succeed his boss.

But Mr Yeltsin may have had a more calculated motive. Next week the Duma, the stronghold of former Communists and anti-reformers, was due to pass a motion of censure on the Government. The likely resulting impasse could have been broken only by the dissolution of parliament or the Government. Mr Yeltsin chose the latter, thus depriving the Duma of the chance to scrutinise his ministers' performance. It is a neat tactic in an old struggle.

Anatoli Chubais, the most intelligent but unpopular figure in the old Government, put a brave face on the reshuffle, saying it strengthened the reformist cause. The new Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, is an archetypal Young Turk — smart, educated and versed in Western ways. But at 35 he lacks experience and authority; it will be a long time before he or anyone else can assume the mantle of predictable dependability that made Mr Chernomyrdin such a reassuring figure to Western investors and policymakers. Many of the old faces will be re-employed. Some unpopular figures will probably not return: few will miss Anatoli Kulikov, the Interior Minister.

As long as Russia remains committed to reform, the West has little to fear from yesterday's reshuffle. But pressing decisions darken the Moscow horizon. A Russia preoccupied with political infighting and succession struggles is an enfeebled international partner, prey to investors' post-Asia jitters. Mr Yeltsin cannot rely on his old sporting nimbleness to outwit his opponents; he and his team need some quick scoring before their term is up.

## NO MITIGATION

Ministers cannot neglect the mentally ill

Mental illness is a sentence in itself. Its effects can place the victim in a state more solitary and miserable than any prison architect could devise. Yet many of those in illness's grip are incarcerated in institutions which no prison architect could contemplate without shame. England's three top-security mental hospitals are grotesque warehouses for neglected outcasts. There will be no votes in spending the money necessary to close these institutions and transfer the inmates to appropriate new homes, but while it may not be one of the "people's priorities" it should be one of the Government's. The ugly nature of the crimes committed by many of these institutions' inmates should not blind ministers to the fact that the inmates are victims too.

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with using Victorian buildings to house mental patients, any more than there is something inappropriate about a centre of medical excellence being based in the medieval surroundings of Bart's hospital or theoretical physicists working in All Souls. The faults of Broadmoor, Rampton and Ashworth are not primarily architectural but are, for practical purposes, only capable of resolution with a completely fresh start. The scale of the existing institutions and the manner in which they are managed diminishes both inmates and warders. As last night's *Panorama* made clear there is a punitive culture which permeates their walls and a turnkey mentality which afflicts many of the staff. The inmates may not be easily susceptible to therapy but the manner in which their institutions are run does not improve the chances. For the sake of the prisoners' health and the nurses' pro-

fessional dignity, a change to a more humane regime is imperative.

It will not, however, be easy. To replace three large institutions with six modern hospitals will require a considerable investment. It may be possible to sell the land on which the three secure hospitals currently stand but while Broadmoor, in Berkshire, might raise a healthy sum Rampton in north Nottinghamshire and Ashworth in Merseyside are unlikely to have the developers reaching for their chequebooks. If the new hospitals are to place treatment before punishment as well as guaranteeing public safety, then they are unlikely to be paid for by the sale of their predecessors.

Public consent for higher expenditure to improve the inmates' conditions may be difficult to secure, but not as difficult as public consent for the siting of new hospitals near residential areas. The health service managers behind reform hope that new institutions would allow inmates to live closer to their families, but how many voters will be happy to see Ian Brady and Peter Sutcliffe living closer to their own families? No matter how secure the new hospitals prove to be, there will be very few Labour MPs clamouring for their constituencies to benefit from the employment opportunities these institutions will bring. The Government may, in the circumstances, be tempted to leave well alone, but neglect will create its own problems. The former director of the High Security Psychiatric Services Board, Ray Rowden, has warned ministers: "Let it rumble and I guarantee you that two years from now you'll have another scandal." If ministers fail to act, then there will be no mitigating circumstances.

## THE HUMANE ZOO

Britain sets a standard for the rest of the EU

*Homo sapiens* shares his planet with more than 30 million other species. These are not simply a resource to be squandered. They are an integral part of our lives and cultures. Their care and conservation matter. And Britain should be proud to be leading the way in calling for an improvement of conditions in European zoos.

Captive breeding programmes are a cornerstone of animal conservation. Natural habitats can no longer be guaranteed. Even now, fires in the forests of Borneo and the Amazon are laying waste to the environments of thousands of creatures. Indian farmers are encroaching on one of the tiger's last redoubts. War in Rwanda puts the territories of the mountain gorilla in peril.

If such species are to be preserved, if they are to continue to evolve as they have done for the past billion years, then zoos must evolve alongside them. British legislation demands uniquely high standards of care for animals in captivity. And of some 300 licensed collections, more than 60 are voluntarily associated with the Federation of Zoos, a self-regulatory organisation whose standards are higher even than the government minimum. The cruel and claustrophobic menageries of our Victorian past are phobic memories of our Victorian past are gone. The best modern zoos — London and Jersey are models — co-ordinate captive breeding with programmes in the wild. From the Sumatran tiger to the Fregate from the Grevy's zebra to the wart-biter cricket, dozens of endangered species are being preserved in this way.

But several European zoos are failing to meet expected welfare norms. Animals suffer acutely. Bears and big cats are imprisoned in pens so small and spartan that they are reduced to psychotic pacing. An elephant was found with festering wounds in Spain. In Athens two lions were cooped inside an aviary.

Yesterday the Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, took advantage of Britain's presidency of the EU to urge his continental colleagues to adopt a zoos directive, establishing minimum levels of animal care. At present only a handful of countries — Germany and Sweden among them — legislate to ensure this.

But proper conditions are vital to successful captive breeding. Brown bears languish if they are deprived of stimulation. Tigers may be resistant to cold, but they are fatally susceptible to damp. To make full use of the available gene pool, zoo directors need to be sure that they can loan their animals to other collections without fear that their health and wellbeing are at risk.

At the beginning of this year only two other nations favoured the proposed directive. Now there are ten supporting it. But it could still take years before anything is on the statute books. Britain, with its powerful animal rights lobby, cannot impose its own laws on its neighbours. Meanwhile, zoo reports could name and shame the worst offenders. Local people and tourists could choose not to visit or support any collections which fell short on their standards.

## 'Flawed' proposal on car taxation

From Mr Kerr MacGregor

Sir, The Chancellor's Budget proposal to penalise cars by the size of their engines is inherently flawed.

It is quite well known in automotive design, as Kevin Eason's report (March 19) pointed out, that there is no absolute connection between the capacity of an engine and the fuel consumption (and consequent environmental impact) of the car it propels. In fact when a car manufacturer offers a range of engines for a car it is often the biggest engine, turning more slowly and with more relaxed valve timing, which is the most economical and least polluting of the range.

Earlier this century British engine designers were constrained by legislation which taxed the diameter of a car's engine cylinders rather than their stroke or travel. This led to a generation of artificially long and skinny engines which were neither very powerful nor energy-efficient.

Yours etc,  
KERR MACGREGOR  
(Senior Lecturer in Energy Engineering, Napier University, 10 Colinton Road, Edinburgh EH10 5DT, March 19.

From Dr Robert Davis

Sir, The advertisement by the Automobile Association (March 19) treats us to the unedifying spectacle of arrogance and self-pity from the bleeding motorists complaining about having to pay about another pound a week.

Why should money from motoring taxation be completely paid back to motorists for more roads, or even to a public transport system sabotaged by long-term government support for motoring? We do not get money paid back directly to smokers or drinkers from their (much more highly taxed) practices. Higher earners do not get their greater sums of income tax — amounting to far more than motoring taxes — paid back to them.

Taxation on cars and fuel will need to rise dramatically to realise a necessary reduction in motor traffic. When it does, the revenue gained should be spent not just on rescuing public transport but either on greater public expenditure — such as on health, education and housing — or on lower income taxes and national insurance (particularly for the low-paid) and higher pensions, or both.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT DAVIS,  
97 Bryan Avenue, NW10 2AS.

From Dr W. S. Parker

Sir, The fundamental flaw in the anti-private car policy is the irreplaceable loss of expert time spent in waiting for public transport. To waste the skills of district nurses, plumbers, electricians and a host of others working in the community while they stand at bus stops instead of attending to the next job is just plain daft, not to mention the problem of the transport of tools and equipment.

To say that this day-to-day work could be compensated by some form of tax relief is not an argument acceptable to the employees of tight-fisted local authorities and others who have to cover a considerable part of providing a vehicle out of their own pockets. To work outdoors under all conditions of weather without a covered vehicle immediately to hand is to revert to prewar conditions.

Yours faithfully,  
W. S. PARKER,  
68 Ladies Mile Road,  
Patcham, Brighton BN1 8TD,  
March 20.

From Mr G. S. Ditcha

Sir, I was enthused before the last general election to learn of the Labour Party's integrated transport policy. Various proposals and legislative measures since the election have now clarified their plans; that is, if it moves tax it.

Yours motionless,  
G. S. DITCHA,  
100 Vaughan Street,  
Leicester LE3 5JP,  
March 20.

## Masai 'battering'

From Dr Effa Okupa

Sir, Your report, "Wife puts Masai 'right to batter' on trial" (March 12), states that "Masai customary law and practice permit a husband to beat his wife".

When some African men behave badly they blame it on customary law, thus bringing customary law, the law of the majority of Africans, into disrepute. Even in England some men batter their wives, but their behaviour has nothing to do with the common law.

Indigenous law or customary law is *ius non scriptum*. There is no evidence that customary law sanctions the battering of women, apart from hearsay by violent men. Fortunately, many men, be they Masai, Dinka or English, do not batter their wives or partners.

It is not customary law that is on trial, but brutal men. I hope that the court rules against them.

Yours faithfully,  
EFFA OKUPA,  
The Afrika Studies Centre,  
University of East London,  
Longbridge Road,  
Dagenham, Essex RM8 2AS,  
March 13.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Workers as assets on balance sheet

From Mr Geoff Newman

Sir, In their annual addresses to shareholders, company chairmen are much given to declaring "our employees are our greatest asset". Why then is there no mention of employees in the balance sheet that follows?

I believe we should devise a method for putting the value of employees somewhere on this vital snapshot of the company's wellbeing. Even if banks turned their noses up, it would allow the company to make clear the value it places on its staff and assign a monetary value to them.

There are, for a start, two values that could be audited against a national scale and thus allow one company to be compared with another.

The first is the value of the current workforce's qualifications. All elements of the educational process could be assigned a value in a national register of training values: for example, a GCSE might be valued at, say, £50,000 (based on the cost of providing the education for that subject in that year divided by the number of pupils passing that subject, etc. For ease of comparison between companies an "index" figure could be created by dividing the computed total "value" by the number of employees.

A similar figure could be produced for the amount spent on training employees by the company during the report period. The amount a company spends on training is a clear reflection of the value it places on its staff.

The creation of the national register

of training values should be possible from statistics already available. Such a move would transform the way we analyse balance sheets and enable those selling and buying companies to have the benefit of a nationally acceptable yardstick.

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFF NEWMAN,  
30 Mount Pleasant,  
Norwich, Norfolk NR2 2DH,  
March 23.

From Ms Helen Garner

Sir, The suggestion by Paul Tatham (letter, March 17) that the Government should gradually lower retirement age to 50 fails to acknowledge changing UK demographics.

Our society is inexorably ageing. The number of younger workers (16-24) has dropped by nearly two million in the last ten years. They will not be replaced. In the next ten years the number of 25 to 34-year-olds will be reduced by the same proportion.

Many UK employers fail to understand that the early retirement culture needs to be reversed not expanded. Others, fortunately, have recognised that employing people of all ages is the only way to guarantee their organisations' future competitiveness.

Yours faithfully,  
HELEN GARNER  
(Campaign Manager),  
Employers Forum on Age,  
1268 London Road, SW16 4ER,  
March 18.

### Reporting Parliament

From Mr Christopher Jones

Sir, Professor Bernard Crick's concern about the reporting — or non-reporting — of Parliament (letter, March 14) is understandable, but all parts of the media are culpable, not just the broadcasters. *The Times* long ago joined the other broadsheets in dropping its daily, full-page, reports of proceedings in the chambers. Although television cameras at Westminster were supposed to bring the work of Parliament into voters' homes, the coverage seems to have substantially decreased since the cameras arrived.

One of the reasons, of course, is the greatly increased manipulation of political news by governments, party organisations and by individual MPs through the lobby system. This is the system of pumping out favourable news through calculated leaks, *sotto*

voce conversations in corridors and bars, and daily off-the-record and unattributable briefings by civil servants and party officials. Straight reporting of parliamentary debates would be beyond their control.

Thus governments and parties hold all the cards, since any infringement of the lobby rules by journalists means that sources of news dry up and careers can be in jeopardy.

Nobody doubts that there should be some degree of confidentiality between journalists and politicians. But the lobby system is based entirely on secrecy which forces the media to play into the hands of governments and parties. It should be allowed to have no part in the life of an educated democracy.

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER JONES  
(BBC Parliamentary Correspondent,  
Radio and Television News, 1975-89),  
26 Cranford Close, SW20 0DP.

### Reserve forces cuts

From Commander N. R. Messinger, RNR (ret)

Sir, This nation's reserve forces have long provided an easy target for the knife-wielding Ministry of Defence "bean counters" (letters, March 18).

It is well documented that in 1939 Royal Navy officers despised the reserves, awarding the RNR the title "Really not very reliable".

On mobilisation, reservists serving with the Royal Navy not only had to contend with fighting the enemy, but also the prejudice of the British officer class. The distinguished author and historian, Len Deighton, admirably summed up the prevailing attitude in his excellent *Blood, Tears and Folly*, published in 1993:

When wartime's compulsory military service first sent civilians to sea, they regarded this narrow-minded, time-worped community [the Royal Navy] with awe. They took it over, and changed it forever... The sailors who fought and won the Atlantic battle were in the main civilians.

### Tory party reform

From Mr Robert A. S. Gibbs

Sir, I cannot be the only paid-up member of the Conservative Party who is affronted by the artfulness of the recently distributed ballot papers and the request for a mandate for reform.

If the proposed constitution is to be the pre-nuptial agreement and pledge of even-handedness upon which hang the long-term happiness of the voluntary party within this "arranged" marriage, this bride intends to flee the perils of such a union.

Yours truly,  
ROBERT A. GIBBS,  
Little Hazley, Stratfield Mortimer,  
Berkshire RG7 3PS,  
March 23.

### Posted abroad

From Sir John Wilton

Sir, It will be interesting to see which ambassadorial posts are chosen first for advertisement (report, March 23): Paris, Washington, Rome? Or Mogadishu, Kabul, Panama? And what the response will be.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN WILTON  
(Ambassador, Kuwait, 1970-74; Saudi Arabia, 1976-79),  
Legassick House,  
69 Fore Street, Plympton St Maurice,  
Plymouth, Devon PL7 3NA,  
March 23.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### King's Library move 'essential'

From the Chief Executive of The British Library

Sir, Your correspondents writing about the King's Library (letter, March 19) have overlooked a fundamental reason for the move to its new home at St Pancras.

The British Library exists to care for, and make available to scholars of present and future generations, the world's greatest collection of written and printed material. Carefully controlled environmental conditions are essential to the survival of that material. The King's Library in the British Museum does not enjoy those. To leave the collection there would have been to condemn it to eventual disintegration.

By contrast, the tower which will house the King's Library at St Pancras will provide optimum conditions for conservation. In addition it will ensure that the books, which are in continuing and heavy demand, will be available for consultation alongside the other parts of the British Library's collection stored at St Pancras.

The plans for the move of the King's Library have been in the public domain for the past thirty years. Three years ago the All-Party Arts and Heritage Group, following a visit to St Pancras, reported (*The House Magazine*, February 27, 1995):

At the heart of the Library and seen from all sides is a glass "bookcase" the height of the building which houses the magnificent "King's Library" of George III. We look forward to returning in two years to see the King's Library in place.

I am surprised to see a protest at this late stage, when the move of King George III's books is virtually complete.

The British Library is ensuring the survival of a key part of our intellectual heritage in a new building which will in due course, I have no doubt, come to be as valued as its predecessor.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN LANG,  
Chief Executive,  
The British Library,  
96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB,  
March 20.

### Museum closure

From Mr Mark Barrington-Ward

Sir, The Chancellor in his Budget speech said that he wanted to improve access to our nation's museums and galleries and was giving extra money to help those that do not charge for admission.

But what about the plight of those that have long been forced to charge? As a member of the Friends of the Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle I received today an urgent appeal from the chairman who is trying to raise £34,000 to prevent the museum from being closed for five months next winter.

Durham County Council, which took over responsibility from the original trustees, is under such financial pressure it says it cannot keep the museum open all the year round. Twelve staff would go.

The Government has recognised that the museum at Barnard Castle is an institution of national importance, but has not yet followed this with any financial help.

The importance of the collections can be seen by anyone visiting the splendid exhibition of regional treasures now at the Royal Academy. The Bowes Museum has lent no fewer than eight paintings, including El Greco's *Tears of Peter and Goya's* portrait of his friend Meléndez Valdés. Its collections of furniture and china are equally outstanding.

If the public are denied access to them for five months next winter, it will be a national scandal.

Yours sincerely,  
MARK BARRINGTON-WARD,  
8 Apsley Road,  
Oxford OX2 7QY,  
March 18.

### Modern Christianity

From Mr Nigel R. MacNicol

Sir, Of course Christianity is unliveable in the 20th century (letters, March 18 and 23); it always was!

Tradition holds that only one person in the last 2,000 years has succeeded in living it 100 per cent — Jesus Christ.

That the rest of us keep practising it has much to do with the fact that, as with ballroom dancing (but unlike golf), forgiveness for the shortcomings is readily available from the Partner.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL MACNICOL,  
9 Church Lane,  
Groetham, Oakham,  
Rutland LE15 7NF,  
March 23.

### Poles apart

From Lord Brightman

Sir, May we please have a photograph of penguins in the Arctic to match your charming photograph (Week-end, Travel, March 21) of the two bewildered polar bears lost in the Antarctic?

Yours faithfully,  
BRIGHTMAN,  
House of Lords,  
March 22.







OBITUARIES

BEVERLEY CROSS

Beverley Cross, playwright, librettist and screenwriter, died of heart disease in London on March 20 aged 66. He was born on April 13, 1931.

Unswerving devotion to the actress Dame Maggie Smith, who became his third wife, characterised the entire working life of Beverley Cross. He first met her, strumming his guitar, in a student revue at Oxford in 1952. Circumstances kept them apart, except for a short period in the early 1960s, until they finally married in 1975.

In the late 1950s, Cross was one of the first recipients of the newly established Arts Council award for playwrights. The young Michael Caine appeared in his first play, *One More River*, at the Liverpool Playhouse. He blossomed to become a writer for both stage and screen of conservative temperament and some accomplishment.

Beverley Cross came from a colourful theatrical background. His father was said to have brought the first wall-of-death artists from America to Britain between the wars. His mother, Eileen Dale, was a dancer and actress who claimed to have been pestered at the stage door of the Hippodrome by a "frightfully dull" man called Evelyn Waugh. In 1936 she married George Cross, a theatrical manager who looked after such stars as Godfrey Tearle and Jack Buchanan and was later a long-serving manager of the Ambassadors Theatre.

Cross attended Pangbourne Nautical College, but on leaving school he first joined the Army and then postponed going up to Balliol College, Oxford, by taking a berth in the Norwegian Merchant Navy. After reading Modern History at Oxford and meeting Maggie Smith, he



chanced his arm as an actor, joining the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre (as it was then known) at Stratford-upon-Avon.

His acting career was stopped dead in its tracks by a discouraging remark from Sir John Gielgud, who directed a production of *Much*

*Ado About Nothing* in which Cross played the small role of Balthazar. "You'll never make an actor," said Gielgud, "you wear your doublet and hose like blazer and flannels."

Crushed, Cross turned immediately to writing and dashed off two novels, some television plays and *One More River*, which Laurence Olivier presented in the West End in 1959 after its Liverpool premiere. Michael Caine was no longer in the cast, but Robert Shaw made his name as a bullying naval officer on board a mutinous freighter anchored in a West African river. The play was tense, tautly written and well constructed, a naval equivalent of Willis Hall's exactly contemporary army piece, *The Long and the Short and the Tall*.

In 1960 Maggie Smith was cast in Cross's second play, *Strip the Willow*, which toured but had no London run. (The smitten playwright had written a tribute to her in the stage direction marking her first entrance. "She is about 25 and very beautiful. As elegant and sophisticated as a top international model. A great sense of fun. A marvellous girl.") Although Maggie Smith had made an impression in the revue, it was really through this performance that she was launched as a West End star. And, although Cross was married to an Oxford contemporary, Elizabeth Clunies-Ross, he continued his romantic siege of Smith while waiting for his own divorce to come through.

He encouraged her to join Laurence Olivier's newly formed National Theatre at the Old Vic. But when she did, she promptly fell in love with a fellow founder member of the company, Robert Stephens, whom she married. Cross was devastated and admitted harbouring murderous intentions towards Stephens at the time. While working on the screenplay of *Lawrence of Arabia*, he

married the model Gayden Collins.

His writing credits became extremely varied. He wrote a hugely successful version of Marc Camoletti's French farce *Boeing-Boeing* in 1962. *Half a Sixpence*, based on H. G. Wells's novel *Kipps*, with music and lyrics by David Heneker, opened soon afterwards and ran for a year and a half at the Cambridge Theatre.

A deeply civilised man, with an abiding love of music of all sorts, Cross wrote libretti for two operas by Richard Rodney Bennett: *The Mines of Sulphur* at Sadler's Wells in 1965 and *Victory* at Covent Garden in 1970. In 1974 he contributed the book to another Tommy Steele vehicle, *Hans Andersen*.

The following year he got his personal reward. The stormy marriage of Smith and Stephens broke down. They divorced, and Cross extricated himself from his second marriage to marry Maggie Smith at Greenwich registry office. The couple left for Canada, where the actress renewed her classical acting career at the Festival Theatre in Stratford, Ontario.

Dame Maggie, as she became in 1990, often said that Cross was the rock of her life. Withdrawn to the point of being reclusive, she relied upon him to keep the world at bay. They lived in Fulham, but also kept a country farmhouse in West Sussex, where Cross became a familiar figure among the locals. He had recently suffered a series of aneurysms, and had been undergoing treatment at the Harley Street Clinic.

He was last represented in the theatre by a rollicking new version of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, directed by Nicholas Hytner and starring Donald Sinden, at Chichester and Her Majesty's in London in 1985.

He is survived by Maggie Smith and by two stepsons, the actors Chris Larkin and Toby Stephens.

SIR ARTHUR HOOLE



Sir Arthur Hoole, solicitor, died on March 17 aged 74. He was born on January 14, 1924.

requires lawyers to show "cultivation" — he habitually quizzed candidates for insights into the novels of Jane Austen.

AS PRESIDENT of the Law Society from 1984 to 1985, Arthur Hoole was charged with restoring equilibrium after a period of intense media criticism of the society for its handling of the Glanville Davies affair. Davies, a member of the society's council, had eventually been found guilty of overcharging for legal advice — but the society's investigation had been too protracted to satisfy the client who was complaining. He denounced the society for attempting to protect one of its own. Newspapers went further, pointing out that Davies and some other society officials were Freemasons.

This imbroglio eventually led to the establishment of an independent Solicitors' Complaints Board, but first the profession needed a leader who was reliable and uncontroversial. Hoole, who was not a Mason, won the job. Coming from Surrey, he had not been widely tipped — partly because Law Society presidents traditionally come either from the City of London or some far-flung region — but he was known by colleagues to be unflappable, and he satisfied all expectations.

A large man, easily given to laughter, and blessed with humorously tufted eyebrows, Hoole made many friends during his year in charge — and not only in the Law Society's headquarters in Chancery Lane. He devoted considerable energy to addressing law societies around the country. One topic then considered highly contentious was the profession's imminent loss of its monopoly rights to conduct conveyancing. But if there was one issue to which Hoole was personally attached, it was legal education, an interest which had intensified when Harold Wilson, as Prime Minister, commissioned the Benson Report on the provision of legal services.

From 1976 until 1993, Hoole served as a governor of the College of Law, the organisation responsible for training the vast majority of Britain's solicitors, and from 1983 to 1990 he was chairman of the college. Additionally, he was a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education, 1977-80, and of the Common Professional Examination Board, 1977-81. He was knighted in 1985.

A history graduate himself, Hoole liked lawyers to demonstrate interests beyond their profession. As chairman of the board awarding the Travers Smith Scholarship — which

Arthur Hugh Hoole was the son of Hugh Francis and Gladys Emily Hoole. From Sutton County School he won an open exhibition to Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Having volunteered for the Royal Air Force, he completed only one year's study at Emmanuel before being granted a commission in 1943 as a navigator and wireless operator. It was in the University Air Squadron that he first met John Bowron, who became a lifelong friend and was secretary-general of the Law Society when Hoole was President. Another friend from that time was the future Court of Appeal judge Ian Gledhill.

Hoole's war consisted of training in Canada and two tours of duty on operations in Lancaster bombers. In 1945 he married Eleanor Mary Hobbs, a doctor in general practice, and the following year he left the RAF. He returned to Cambridge, completed his degree, took another in law, and qualified as a solicitor in 1951.

The firm he joined, Tuck & Mann, was based in Epsom and his brother-in-law was one of the three partners. Hoole carried out a range of work, including matrimonial matters, conveyancing, and probate (the particularly enjoyed advocacy). He was a partner in the firm from 1951 to 1988, and senior partner for much of that period. From 1988 he served as a consultant to the firm, which now boasts 13 partners and three offices.

In 1969 Hoole was elected to represent solicitors from his area on the council of the Law Society. His commitment to the society was to last 18 years.

An active caterer even in his fifties, Hoole also enjoyed watching the game at Lord's. Another love was fine food and wine. Colleagues who sat with Hoole on panels of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — to which he was appointed on stepping down as Law Society President — remember his often exceeding his allotted expenses in order to appreciate dinners on the circuit to the full. As he travelled around the country, he usually found time to visit an antiquarian bookseller, and when in London he was often seen at his club, the RAC. But he enjoyed the work itself, and only reluctantly gave up his service on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board when too ill to continue, earlier this year.

Arthur Hoole is survived by his wife and their two sons and two daughters.

SIR ANTHONY FELL

Sir Anthony Fell, Conservative MP for Yarmouth, 1951-66 and 1970-83, died on March 20 aged 83. He was born on May 18, 1914.

ANTHONY FELL was a vintage rightwinger, and his year was 1949, when he fought the South Hammersmith by-election, which made him temporarily famous, on a pro-Empire platform that matured into long-term opposition to British involvement in Europe. Like Lord Beaverbrook, who was his early supporter, his views never changed. He

was a Suez rebel, a Tory who clashed bitterly with Harold Macmillan and later with Edward Heath, and a fundamentalist whose refusal to compromise ruled out any prospect of office.

He was the son of Commander David Fell, who left the Royal Navy to farm in New Zealand. The boy, who had begun his education at Bedford Grammar School, was suddenly uprooted and sent to Tauranga High School, where his already strong imperial feelings were nurtured. At first the family had a hard time, but the Ottawa Agreement,

with its scheme for imperial preference, not only improved his father's fortunes but helped to make Fell a white commonwealth man for life.

Fell returned to England, took up engineering, worked as a machine operator to gain experience, joined the engineering union, and was on his way to success in management when, in 1946, he was adopted as a prospective candidate for Brigg, where he was convinced a by-election was imminent. He gave up his job, sold his house and moved his family to Lincolnshire in preparation for the fight. Unfortunately his timing was wrong.

The by-election did not take place for 16 months. He was defeated and he had spent all his savings.

But his showing at Brigg impressed Lord Woolton, the Tory party chairman, who gave him a job at headquarters until he secured the nomination for South Hammersmith, where the Labour Member had died. It proved a rough by-election, with Fell accusing Labour of fostering communism and of foisting snook onto British tables in place of more traditional food. Fell lost, but he cut the Labour

majority from 3,548 to 1,613. He fought and lost the seat again in 1950, but by 1951 he was at last in the Commons. He was elected for Yarmouth, which included the old seat of Great Yarmouth, which his grandfather, Sir Arthur Fell, had represented in Parliament years before.

In the House Fell's stocky, square-built figure was a familiar sight as he rose angrily time after time to denounce his party's opponents — and often his own party as well. He attacked Macmillan for his "wind of change" speech in South Africa in terms which got him into trouble with his constituency officers. He was the only Tory to go into the "No" lobby in 1961 in the ill-important division on whether Britain should join the EEC. He called Macmillan "a national disaster" after the Government's decision to seek entry, and was forced to send a letter of apology.

He had won the Yarmouth seat from Labour in 1951, and held it comfortably in 1955, 1959 and 1964, but in 1966, with Harold Wilson's electoral fortunes at their highest, he lost it to Labour by 797 votes. He regained the seat in 1970 by a healthy majority of 3,157 and kept it easily for the remainder of his parliamentary career. He backed Ian Smith throughout the Rhodesian troubles, joined the Monday Club and kept up his opposition to Britain's participation in Europe. But in later life the fires which had consumed his early years seemed to burn lower. In 1981, when he was 67, he announced that he would not be seeking re-election. He was knighted in 1982.

In 1938 Fell married Jane Warwick, a dedicated nurse who cared for patients in London hospitals throughout the air raids. She survives him, with their son and daughter.

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ON THIS DAY March 24, 1966. Archbishop Fisher had met Pope John XXIII in 1960, but this historic moment was the first official meeting between the heads of the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches. The Archbishop spoke first. In strong tones he greeted the Pope as his "Dear brother in Christ", pointing out that he had come as president of the Lambeth Conference of Bishops from all parts of the Anglican Communion throughout the world, and not only as Archbishop of Canterbury. "I have come," he said, "with loving in my heart which I know to be in your heart also, that we may by our meeting together help in the fulfilment of the prayer of our divine Lord that all his disciples may come to unity in the truth."

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# History and expertise on show

Peter Brown introduces a two-page report on the British Antique Dealers' Association and its annual fair this week

I suppose the nearest equivalent to the BADA fair," says Antony Preston, "is the Chelsea Flower Show. At both shows everything is beautifully laid out under a very smart marquee. There's a colour theme, carpets, flowers, a restaurant. They've got the same leisurely feel about them. There's no pressure to buy, but if you see something you really like you can walk around the fair and compare it. We have 87 members exhibiting."

Mr Preston's enthusiasm is natural: he is chairman of the British Antique Dealers' Association (BADA) and the seven-day fair which begins tomorrow at the Duke of York's Headquarters off Sloane Square, West London, is its annual showcase. BADA's unique selling point is its expertise. There are almost 9,500 dealers in Britain, but BADA's membership is restricted to 400 of the most knowledgeable. Some dealers may have relatively few pieces in stock, but they will really know their stuff.

A series of talks is given at the fair, mainly by BADA members. This year's subjects are silver, clockmaking, floral displays, animal and bird paintings, stained and secular paintings, boxes, wood-

en artefacts and liquor-drinking vessels. For the first time guests can join experts for lunch each day. On Friday, Michel Roux, of the Waterside Inn at Bray in Berkshire, will present a four-course dinner and talk about the changes in eating habits he has seen.

Mr Preston is himself the model of a modern antiques dealer, with City suit, mobile phone and a shop in Stow-in-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, where he sells mainly English and continental furniture. Ask him about market trends and his eyes light up.

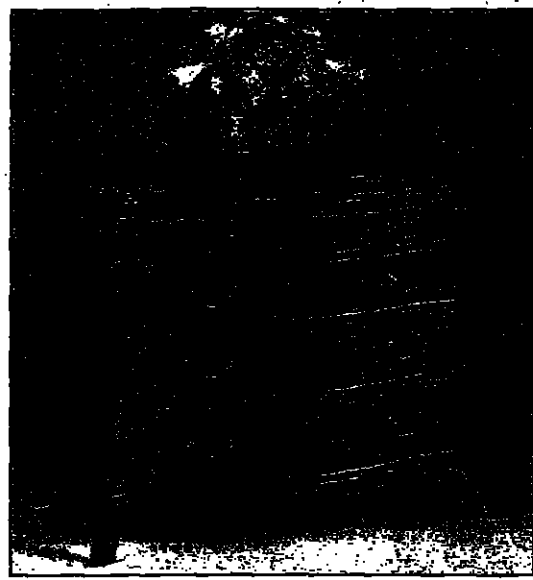
"It's a lot to do with fashion and price. American collectors, for example, like the colonial look formed by the early settlers. American federal furniture, the equivalent of our late 18th-century Sheraton and Regency furniture, is rather different from our own.

"Different decades bring different fashions. Silver had a hard time at one time. So did clocks. Oak furniture suffered when the Dutch and Belgians stopped buying it in the mid-Seventies. High-quality items of almost any discipline are in fashion now, but they have to be pleasing to the eye, and have domestic appeal. Someone who wants a desk will want drawers and somewhere to put a computer."

But why should someone who



Model dealer: Antony Preston, BADA chairman



George III chest (H.C. Baxter), £12,500

wants a desk go to the BADA fair, rather than a saleroom? The answer, says Mr Preston, is simple. In the showroom, the buyer shoulders the risk. At the fair, the dealer has already taken it.

"If the dealer has made a mistake, you can get your money back. If he argues, you can ring up BADA and they'll tell him to repay you. We arbitrate in that way. It's just normal integrity."

Antiques fairs allow the dealers to compete with salerooms for public attention as well as enabling the public to compare prices (most

items at the BADA fair, says Mr Preston, will be price-tagged; all will be vetted for quality).

With Peter Brooke, MP, the former Cabinet minister, at its helm, the British Art Market Federation is lobbying hard against European Commission proposals to double VAT on art imports to 5 per cent. If the tax goes up, says Mr Preston, "we're going to lose a lot of business to New York, Geneva and Monaco".

Another threat is the Artist Resale Rights Levy, a tax on contemporary work which the

European Union wants to introduce in Britain next year. "It's an imposition," says Mr Preston. "If, as a struggling artist, I sell you a picture, you take a gamble in buying it. Why, when I get more well known, should you have to pay me a percentage when you sell?"

These are understandable sentiments from a dealer who values freedom in world trade. For the moment, the British art market remains almost tax free. The prices at the spring fair will certainly compare favourably with most of the EU.

HISTORIANS point to the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars as a watershed for Europe between conflicts driven by dynastic and religious politics and wars fuelled by the hatred of peoples.

Witney Antiques, specialists in samplers, is more precise and seems to blame *The Times* for the change. In 1808 this newspaper sent Henry Robinson to the Peninsula as one of the first war correspondents, and his reports helped fire the patriotic passions of the British people.

In that year a young woman named Hannah Stophouse embroidered a sampler, showing "The Englishman" on a black horse preparing to shoot "The Frenchman". The Oxfordshire dealer is asking £5,000 for it at the BADA fair.

From the same period, comes a rare 4½-in-high blue transfer-printed jug, brought to the fair by Gillian Neale of Aylesbury. It carries a political message which resonates today as then: "General Protestant Association of Loyal Orange Men Honour all Men Love the British King Honour the King: Derry had no surrender: Anglin's and the Boyne". Another piece on Neale's stand is a Mission foot-bath decorated with a blue-and-white transfer of Veruca and dating from about 1825.

The Wimbledon glass specialist Mark West offers a group of English and French mezzim decanters from the early 19th century which have price tags ranging from £400 to £2,000. An exotic wine glass on the stand is an 1850s red overlay example

## Art forged to fire the nation



Dr Syntax tree'd by a bull (Andrew Dando), £725

decorated with vines by Bacchus & Sons of Birmingham.

In a nice touch, Andrew Dando of Bath not only has a Derby porcelain figure of Dr Syntax tree'd by a bull, but also a number of Rowlandson's aquatints for William Combe's satirical poems on the career of the Quixote of the Picturesque. The prints are priced between £45 and £55. The figure will be rather more.

HUON MALLALIEU

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# Swaggering still life

While every sense is catered for by the exhibits in a big antiques fair, taste, or at any rate food and drink, is emphasised as a principal ingredient in this week's BADA show at Chelsea.

Indeed, it is tempting to speculate whether the programme of browsing and slucing, in the form of a talk and demonstration dinner by Michel Roux, a charity champagne dinner and a masterclass on drinking vessels entitled *Holding Your Liquor*, came before the gustatory exhibits, or vice versa.

The art of the still life is essentially concerned with time, life and death, and food is often used to display the bloom of freshness while hinting at the imminence of decay. "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, all is vanity," or in the Vulgate, *Vanitas vanitatum*, giving us the term *vanitas still life*.

The most obvious symbol of transience is the skull; more delicate intimations are conveyed by highly scented flowers, pipe smoke and tobacco ash, delicate insects, musical instruments with broken strings, fragile glasses, the bloom of grapes or peaches and the zest of lemon. The textures of such things, together with gold and silver and exotic shells, provide the painter with opportunities to swagger.

Raphael Valls, of Duke Street, St James's, has a fine example by Cornelis de Heem (1631-1695). The son of a still life painter, he was born and died in Leiden, but passed most of his career in Antwerp. His still life of *Fruit with Oysters*, a

*Crayfish and a Roemer on a Table* measures 15½ in. by 21½ in. and is priced at £150,000. Is there a hint of vanity in the overturned caster, for sugar or spice, behind the roemer (hence the English "rummer") of wine?

By the time that Hector Caffieri (1847-1932) painted his *Boulogne Fishmarket* such symbolism had



Detail: Edouart silhouette, (Frank Sabia), £9,000

been lost, and a display of texture and colour was the sole purpose. This is shown by John Spink, the watercolour dealer of Fulham, who also has a number of fine examples of earlier English artists including William Payne, with a Cornish view dated 1789, and a John Frederick Lewis of Amalfi.

the concern of *On Board a PBO*, although along with sun and breeze on skin, there might be a hint of lunch and a glass to come. The oil sketch by Sir John Lavery is shown by Duncan Miller of Hampstead. It dates from Lavery's first visit to Tangier, where he bought a house, and was painted aboard the *Kaiser-Hind* on the return journey in 1891. The freshness of the 9½ in. by 6 in. sketch perfectly illustrates the teaching of his mentor Bastien-Lepage: "Always carry a sketchbook, select a person, watch him, then put down what you remember. Never look twice."

Lavery's painting has always inspired affection. It was given as a present by the artist in 1894, and in the 1930s it was acquired by a Dunfermline lady. When sold by her descendants last year, it caused a furore in a Scottish auction. Hearing, rather than taste, is the subtext of a silhouette of a family group cut and dated 1831 by Augustin Edouart (1789-1861). This has Scottish connections, since it shows the Balmain family of Perth making music and other noises.

Edouart has been described as "the most sympathetic and accurate silhouette cutter the world has ever seen". Although decorated as a soldier of Napoleon, he was evidently sympathetic to the legitimists, since while in Edinburgh he portrayed the exiled Charles X, his grandson the Duc de Bordeaux and 76 members of their family. The Balmain silhouette is exhibited by Frank Sabia of Bond Street.

HUON MALLALIEU



Cornelis de Heem's still life, price £150,000, from Rafael Valls



Lavery's oil sketch *On Board a PBO* (Duncan Miller), £85,000



*Boulogne Fishmarket* (John Spink), £8,500

# Fine furniture and reflections of the past

THE FIRST section of Fulham Road is sometimes disparagingly referred to as the "Brown Mile" because of the numerous antique shops that deal in "brown furniture". Huon Mallalieu writes.

British cabinet makers have seldom gone in for gilding and ornate mounting on the scale of French *ébénistes*, or for painted furniture in the manner of the Italians or Germans, but there is much more to them than just the colour.

A spectacular example of English gilding is on the stand of Ronald Phillips of Bruton Street — a fine and delicate pair of mid-18th-century carved mirrors in the high rococo manner of John Linnell. He took over the family cabinet-making business in Berkeley Square in 1763, and many of his designs are preserved in the V&A. Unfortunately Linnell, like Chippendale, did not mark his work, and similarity to a design does not prove that a piece is by the master.

Phillips also has some oddities. One is a brass-bound mahogany bucket, known as a "tea-comforter". The other is a square oak country-house post box standing 5ft high.

A tapestry — once a considerable

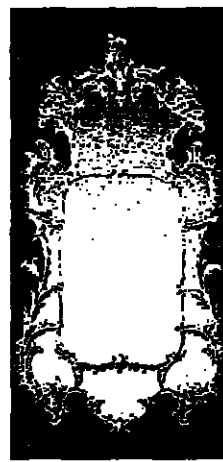
English industry — lends a touch of colour to the stand of Norman Adams of Hans Road, opposite Harrods, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. Adams has a fine example of July from a set of the months, made for the second Duke of Bedford and measuring 9ft 4in by 8ft 4in.

Brown is an inadequate description of the rich toffeed golden patina of a William and Mary walnut side table, also at Norman Adams. It is a rarity in that the legs, stretchers and bun feet of such tables are often replaced or repaired because they suffered particularly from woodworm and damp. All are original here.

Among the truly brown of various shades, there is a good choice of George III break-front bookcases, imposing examples being offered by W.R. Harvey of Witney.

Oxfordshire, H.C. Baxter of Fulham Road, and Reindeer Antiques of Pottersbury, Northamptonshire. Baxter also has a satinwood window seat and two armchairs in the Sheraton style of about 1790.

The organisers maintain that the BADA fair is Europe's leading fair in antique clocks, and many of Britain's top dealers are there.



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# A week for brave hearts north of the border

## The story so far . . .

Not a very good week for your boys. You can say that again. But not a very good week for anybody except people with Arsenal players in their teams. And Rangers too, I suppose, although then sliding through against Dundee was more or less inevitable. I don't know about that: things at Ibrox aren't as inevitable as they used to be. They are in third place in the Scottish League, and Hearts and Celtic don't show many signs of slipping.

True, but Negri scored on Saturday, which is a return to scoring form. For a while, I was thinking he might go down in the next player evaluation, and I'd be able to get him in for a late scoring surge.

That's right, because your main striker, John Hartson, is out of the cup now, isn't he? Absolutely. He ran through more or less the entire Arsenal defence to get that goal to keep the Hammers in the match, then missed in the penalty shoot-out.

He wasn't the only one.

No, Samassi Abou missed as well. Come on, you know what I'm getting at. Okay, Berkovic missed too; both my West Ham players, in fact.

So your interest in the FA Cup is more or less at an end.

If by that you mean that I haven't got any Arsenal or Newcastle players, you're right. But the simple fact is that I haven't got so many transfers left that I can just go straight in and buy players from those clubs.

Would you want to, apart from their cup involvement?

Unfortunately, since there are only five premier league teams left to pick from in the FA Cup League, cup involvement is an important factor. But you're right in a way: both Arsenal and Newcastle are likely to be involved in very tight games from now until the end of the season, so their defenders might be good bets.

Forwards are your problem, though.

Exactly. Scotland might be a better place to look, as they still have three premier league teams in their cup semi-finals, or I could wait and see. Boateng, for instance, is out of the cup, but Coventry have a home game this weekend, so I don't plan to ditch him yet.

But West Ham aren't playing on Saturday, so you might want to replace Harry's men as a matter of urgency.

Good point: so Henrik Larsson or Negri could be on my list — but I think I really need Alan Shearer now. For a bit of that Mary Poppins magic? Exactly.

Knowledge of the Scottish scene benefits an entrant from Bucks; could another player-manager be emerging down the Kings Road?

In a week with only one FA Carling Premiership fixture and two FA Cup replays, it seems remarkable that any ITF entrant could accumulate enough points to make a jump of 20,951 places — until, that is, you read the name and scrutinise the personnel of Alyson Spencer of High Wycombe. Every player is based north of the border, and one or two had highly successful weekends.

Barry Lavety of Hibernian scored the only goal of his team's win, while Marco Negri grabbed the first of Rangers' two against St Johnstone. However, Scottish-born Miss Spencer's best performer was Gilles Rousset, the Hearts goalkeeper, who kept a clean sheet as his team won at Dundee United.

There is, in fact, a distinctly Scottish influence on the jumpers' chart this week; two different teams of Brave Hearts, for example, and a number of other names suggesting Caledonian origins.



Players' league, as Gianfranco Zola has entered the transfer market and begun to move his team, Shortie's Winners, up the table. Could it be a sign of burgeoning ambition to follow the example of his two compatriots?

It will not have escaped anyone's notice that there are currently two Italy international player-managers in the FA Carling Premiership — but what price a third? Since Gianluca Vialli took over at Chelsea and Attilio Lombardo was promoted at Crystal Palace, there have been stirrings at the lower end of the ITF PFA



Gianfranco Zola of Chelsea in training: could he have his eye on the next big management job in the Premiership?

Denied any of his Chelsea teammates by the rules of the competition, Zola also sidestepped the tradition of picking his own club manager at the time, Ruud Гуллит (a sign of things to come, perhaps?) in favour of Jim Smith, of Derby County. Zola has relied heavily on Benito Carbone, his joint top-scorer, and Steve Guppy, the Leicester City wing-back, with Duncan Ferguson also contributing — as different a forward from Zola in style, temperament and appearance as one could imagine.

**FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES**

The Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF league and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students', youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF team faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If you fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button. Instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £2.10 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your faxback is:

**0991 111 333**

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpdesk on 01753-612 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westborough, Leamington Spa, CV34 6JF.

ITF helpline: 01582 702720.

## LEAGUE UPDATES

<b>ITF LEAGUE</b> £50,000 top prize £1,000 monthly prize	<b>PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE</b> Professional clubs choose their fantasy teams
<b>STUDENTS' LEAGUE</b> Monthly prizes of membership tickets, signed football and sports bag	<b>YOUTH LEAGUE</b> Monthly prizes of membership tickets, signed football and sports bag
<b>WOMEN'S LEAGUE</b> Monthly prizes of membership tickets, signed football and sports bag	

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1	S Whitfield	949
2	J Gardner	918
3	C Purdy	904
4	A Finch	903
5	B Fletcher	896
6	A Hentrow	892
7	J Pepper	875
8	M Hussain	868
9	S Brooks	864
10	Adach	862
11	L Emery	860
12	M Potwood	859
13	C Ruiz-Gutierrez	859
14	C Purdy	856
15	C Chadwick	853
16	E Stokes	849
17	J Woolner	849
18	S Allport	849
19	T Saul	835
20	P Johnston	822

## STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1	N Wheatley	1008
2	J Gardner	974
3	M N Wheatley	959
4	J Gardner	918
5	G Wilson	883
6	Steven Shipley	879
7	E Carmichael	877
8	M Stadel	839
9	F Ferguson	826
10	W Razzak	809
11	J Windle	803
12	C Macfarlane	803
13	G Skyrington	799
14	D Hargraves	797
15	I McGill	794
16	Frost	790
17	K Wade	789
18	T Sherpley	784
19	M Tarrant	783
20	M Baker	772

## YOUTH LEAGUE

1	M Somers	850
2	D Lewis	823
3	J Gardner	818
4	R Wicke	816
5	M McPhillips	811
6	Lougheed	804
7	C Oyston	801
8	M Roberts	800
9	G Richards	800
10	J Laurance	800
11	C Marlaniczak	800
12	K Tinsell	794
13	E Stokes	790
14	N Brotherton	781
15	N McGulness	779
16	G Calderbank	778
17	S Mawer	768
18	T Chantley	768
19	T Smith	768
20	D Griffin	764

## ITF LEAGUE

1	Mr M Jones	1026
2	A Luchhurst	1027
3	S Long	1073
4	A Finch	1071
5	Mr M Jones	1069
6	A Luchhurst	1069
7	P Turner	1064
8	Mike Madden	1062
9	P Turner	1062
10	Mr P Turner	1059
11	Mary Ann Kennedy	1057
12	A Newczak	1052
13	D Shaler	1050
14	P Turner	1046
15	Mr P Turner	1044
16	Chris Forde	1043
17	P Turner	1042
18	A Luchhurst	1037
19	Mr D Burch	1030
20	G Dolan	1027
21	P Turner	1025
22	Mr M Jones	1022
23	P Down	1021
24	Malcolm Jackson	1020
25	P Bee	1019
26	P Turner	1017
27	P Turner	1017
28	Barbar Pappas & la Bacon	1013
29	D Walker	1012
30	Jeremy Dwyer	1011
31	A Luchhurst	1009
32	M Wheatley	1009
33	P Turner	1007
34	D Brown	1003
35	A Luchhurst	1003
36	J Gardner	1003
37	C Burr	1003
38	Graeme Dabnor	1003
39	J Hunt	1003
40	M Turner	1003
41	Susan Malkin	994
42	Chris Forde	994
43	James Lee	993
44	Tim Oldfield	991
45	M Lindquist	990
46	Andrew Bates	990
47	Graeme Dabnor	987
48	P Roes	987
49	Henry Wheeler	987
50	Mary Ann Kennedy	987
51	J Hunt	983
52	B Bane	982
53	G Price	982
54	R Lookey	980
55	Mr D Patel	979
56	T Gardner	978
57	Andy Robinson	974
58	Mike Madden	974
59	Mr D Patel	972
60	AJ Headings	971
61	D Brown	971
62	T Garraugh	971
63	Michael Horan	971
64	J Murray	971
65	Graeme Dabnor	969
66	B Pazzanley	968
67	D Jordan	968
68	G Rainbow	967
69	S Birchfield	967
70	Mr M Wheatley	966
71	W Clark	966
72	Colin Bennett	965
73	Nilsen R Patel	965
74	M Fox	964
75	P Turner	964
76	DM Carter	963
77	Michael Huddleston	962
78	J Hunt	962
79	I Rish	962
80	Mr A Staszewicz	962
81	D Ballou	962
82	Mike Allison	960
83	V Cox	960
84	S Whitfield	959
85	Philip Ward	949
86	Jon Pregon	949
87	D Busby	948
88	Ian Kilip	948
89	P Turner	948
90	Mr D Gibrooke Steiner	948
91	Jim Worthington	948
92	Mr D Gibrooke Steiner	948
93	P Turner	948
94	Mr D Gibrooke Steiner	948
95	P Turner	948
96	Mr A Staszewicz	948
97	Graeme Dabnor	948
98	Mr M Jones	948
99	Mr A Staszewicz	938
100	Gravy Broth	938

## PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1	Steve Potts	600
2	Simon Grayson	581
3	Paul Simpson	582
4	Jonathan Hunt	579
5	John Salvo	557
6	Ally McLeod	556
7	Patrick Berger	547
8	Rob Savage	543
9	Robert Lyle	538
10	David Batty	537
11	Richard Shaw	527
12	Taddy Shrewsbury	520
13	Dean Blackwell	515
14	Nicky Butt	514
15	Phil Babb	513
16	Kevin Gallacher	512
17	Dave Watson	512
18	David Tuttle	512
19	Bjorn Kuipers	512
20	Kyle Liddell	506
21	Chris Hughton	504
22	Andy Townsend	502
23	Paul Williams	500
24	David Bevan	498
25	John Handley	498
26	Tim Breckner	497
27	Andrew Liddell	496
28	Tim Crowe	496
29	Lee Dixon	471
30	Kevin Cunningham	468
31	Ian Hogg	468
32	John Barrow	463
33	Robin Van Der Laan	454
34	Dean Holdsworth	454
35	David Bevan	451
36	Kenny Miller	443
37	Andy Bligh	442
38	Colin Hendry	442
39	Lars Bohinen	441
40	Nicky Gladin	440
41	Richard Johnson	437
42	Steve Clarke	429
43	Frank Lampard	429
44	James Le Sueur	429
45	Steve Clarke	429
46	Kevin Muscat	425
47	Porcus Kemarck	419
48	David Whittall	418
49	Gary McRobert	418
50	Kevin Hitchcock	418
51	Danny Williamson	410
52	Neil Redden	408
53	Stewart Campbell	408
54	Ian Donald	405
55	Andy Smith	404
56	Garth Southgate	403
57	John Scalls	390
58	Jason East	390
59	Mark Wright	390
60	Spencer Prior	389
61	Andy Roberts	389
62	Robbie Fowler	389
63	Dennis Wise	388
64	Colin Calderwood	387
65	Alan Wright	387
66	Lee Sharp	386
67	Law Campbell	386
68	Gianfranco Zola	385
69	Marky Wright	384
70	Steve Hedden	384
71	Alan Shearer	381
72	Mike Whitlow	379

## FA CUP LEAGUE

1	Mr M Jones	283
2	Susan Malkin	288
3	Mr M Jones	286
4	Mr P Turner	283
5	Jon Pregon	280
6	Mr P Turner	270
7	Susan Malkin	266
8	H A S Managerial	264
9	G Dolan	257
10	Mr P Turner	262
11	P Tustler	257
12	Susan Malkin	257
13	K Farwell	257
14	J Hunt	257
15	Mr A Staszewicz	255
16	T Whaley	254
17	Mr P Turner	254
18	Mr A Staszewicz	248
19	Mrs A Staszewicz	248
20	Alexander Kennedy	248

**TICKET OFFER THE TIMES**

## Exclusive World Cup ticket offer

Today *The Times* offers readers the chance to see England's first game in the World Cup, against Tunisia, on June 15. Prices are per person flying on a private charter and returning the same day.

### England v Tunisia From £434

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# Down to ten men for the cup semi-finals

### Only five English and Scottish premier league clubs left in the cup... could the dummy solution work?

The departure of Coventry City from the FA Cup at Bramall Lane last Tuesday means that entrants in the ITF FA Cup league are faced with a tricky problem. With Falkirk, Sheffield United and Wolverhampton Wanderers reaching the cup semi-finals in England and Scotland, only five premier league teams remain in the two knockout competitions, meaning that only ten players, or nine players and a manager, are able to access ITF points from the semi-final games.

Of course, all players still gain points based on their league performances, but competitors aiming at the FA Cup league may need to make some tactical adjustments.

First, what is to be done about the two "dead" places in the team? If your remaining transfers will stretch to it, it might be wise to transfer two cheap non-playing members into your squad, in order to use as much of your transfer budget as possible on players who will be able to accrue points.

Which positions should you put these "dummies" into? A manager might seem to be the first logical sacrifice as he can only gain a maximum of three points, whereas outfield players could all, in various circumstances, do better. However, defenders are always liable to lose points through



such natural shocks as yellow and red cards, penalties conceded and own goals. No manager has yet approached the -15 of Barnsley's Adrian Moses. If you pick a manager, then the one you deem most likely to see his team draw the semi-final (before winning the

replay) might be best: that way you will gain four points rather than three.

Of the five teams left, which is most likely to score goals? Not Celtic or Rangers, surely, who play each other. A close game seems on the cards here, which might point towards Jonathan Gould, the Celtic goalkeeper, as a strong choice between the posts, especially after his performance against Aberdeen at Pittodrie on Saturday, when he defied the home attack on a number of occasions.

Heart of Midlothian, second in the Scottish League, who face Falkirk, placed second in the first division, might be candidates to score a few goals — except that Falkirk have more recent experience at this stage, having reached last season's Tennent's Scottish Cup final, where they were beaten by St Johnstone. Nevertheless, Neil McCann, the Scotland international winger, is in good form, and will be a certainty for a midfield place in most serious entrants' selections.

Arsenal, for whom Marc Overmars has already scored 16 FA Cup points, will be without the suspended Dennis Bergkamp against Wolves at Villa Park, which leaves Alan Shearer as the best bet for goals against Sheffield United at Old Trafford.



David Weir of Hearts, the second highest points scorer in the FA Cup league

**STILL IN THE CUP**

M Overmars (Arsenal)	16
A Wenger (Arsenal)	15
D Weir (Hearts)	15
A Shearer (Newcastle)	13
R Dalglish (Newcastle)	13
S Shearer (Newcastle)	11
G Bannock (Hearts)	11
S Pearce (Newcastle)	11
N Winterburn (Arsenal)	10
G Stranahan (Arsenal)	10
R Lee (Newcastle)	10
D Batty (Newcastle)	10

**THIS WEEK'S MOVES**

**IN**

21405 John O'Kane	Everton	£1.50m
41006 Neil Emblen	Crystal Palace	£1.0m

**OUT**

11401 Neville Southall	Everton	£2.0m
40605 Jamie Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	£2.0m

**HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER**

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

TEAMS registered from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.  
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	£	FA(w)	FA	Lg(w)	Lg	Tot
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	1.50	0	2	2	30	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	13	0	70	
10301	M Boenich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	18	0	77	
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	11	0	-18	
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn	4.00	0	9	0	57	
10601	K Branagan	Bolton	1.50	0	0	0	37	
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0	0	0	
10702	J Gould	Celtic	4.00	0	9	7	95	
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	0	-9	0	66	
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	2	4	2	28	
11001	C Nash	C Palace	0.25	0	0	0	0	
11002	K Miller	C Palace	2.00	0	28	3	78	
11101	M Poom	Derby County	2.50	0	8	0	32	
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee Utd	2.00	0	6	2	-35	
11301	N Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	0	-2	-1	-11	
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	3	
11402	T Myhre	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	11	
11501	G Rousseau	Hearts	3.50	0	11	8	67	
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	0	-8	
11602	O Gotschalke'n	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	0	-1	
11702	G Marshall	Kilmarnock	1.50	0	-1	-8	-11	
11801	N Martyn	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	13	0	115	
11901	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00	0	3	0	67	
12001	D James	Liverpool	4.00	0	-5	0	77	
12101	P Schmeichel	Man Utd	5.00	0	-1	0	131	
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0	0	0	
12301	S Given	Newcastle	3.00	0	11	0	46	
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	3	18	6	62	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	5	0	14	
12702	P Jones	Southampton	2.00	0	0	0	37	
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0	6	0	59	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham	2.50	0	3	0	22	
12901	L Mikosko	West Ham	2.00	0	0	0	4	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	15	0	87	

**DEFENDERS**

Code	Name	Team	£	FA(w)	FA	Lg(w)	Lg	Tot
30101	B O'Neil	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-1	-1	1	
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00	1	3	1	42	
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	1	6	1	27	
30203	G Grimsditt	Arsenal	2.00	0	10	0	39	
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	7	0	27	
30301	S Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	0	4	0	25	
30302	J Eto'o	Aston Villa	3.00	0	7	0	35	
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	0	4	0	-14	
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	0	2	0	-15	
30403	M Appleyby	Barnsley	0.50	0	1	0	-9	
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn	3.00	0	4	0	36	
30504	S Henchoz	Blackburn	3.00	0	3	0	29	
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn	2.00	0	0	0	2	
30601	G Taggart	Bolton	1.50	0	0	0	5	
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton	1.00	0	0	0	17	
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton	1.00	0	0	0	-11	
30604	M Fish	Bolton	1.50	0	0	0	10	
30701	E Annoni	Celtic	1.50	0	1	0	25	
30702	M Mackay	Celtic	3.00	0	0	0	3	
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	5	0	64	
30704	M Ripser	Celtic	3.00	0	6	5	59	
30801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	0	-5	0	33	
30802	M Duberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	-4	0	18	
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	-4	0	12	
30804	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	0	-3	
30801	L Dahlb	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	0	
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	25	
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	-11	
31002	A L'Nghan	C Palace	0.75	0	10	0	13	
31003	D Tuttle	C Palace	0.75	0	0	0	-2	
31004	H Hradisarsan	C Palace	1.00	0	13	0	1	
31101	I Stinac	Derby County	2.50	0	4	0	29	
31102	J Laurson	Derby County	1.50	0	-1	0	19	
31201	S Pressley	Dundee Utd	2.00	0	3	0	19	
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	0	-1	-2	-14	
31401	S Bilic	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	-13	
31402	D Watson	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	15	
31403	C Taylor	Everton	1.50	0	0	0	25	
31501	D Weir	Hearts	3.00	0	15	4	44	
31601	J Hughes	Hibernian	2.00	0	0	0	-11	
31801	D Wetherall	Leeds Utd	2.50	0	10	0	50	
31802	G Hall	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	5	0	37	
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	14	0	38	
31804	L Radebe	Leeds Utd	2.00	0	9	0	36	
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50	0	3	0	59	
31902	P Kamark	Leicester City	2.00	0	3	0	52	
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50	0	-2	0	31	
31904	S Fryer	Leicester City	2.00	0	0	0	5	
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	0	5	
32002	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	0	-2	0	34	
32003	B Kyriane	Liverpool	3.00	0	-1	0	29	
32004	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	0	-3	
32051	H Berg	Man Utd	3.50	0	1	0	44	
32101	D May	Man Utd	3.50	0	-3	0	-6	
32102	G Pallister	Man Utd	3.50	0	-4	0	51	
32201	P Albert	Newcastle	2.00	0	0	0	9	
32202	D Peacock	Newcastle	2.00	0	4	1	11	
32203	S Howey	Newcastle	2.00	0	6	-2	18	
32304	A Pistone	Newcastle	3.00	0	8	-1	26	
32401	S Porritt	Rangers	3.50	0	-1	0	43	
32402	E Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	7	1	43	
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	0	0	0	
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	1	7	1	15	
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	3	0	9	
32502	J Newson	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	0	0	14	
32503	Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	3	0	21	
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	0	0	8	
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.50	0	0	0	12	
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-1	0	9	
32801	S McCluskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	0	-1	9	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham	2.00	0	3	0	15	
32802	S Scates	Tottenham	1.50	0	0	0	1	
32803	R Vega	Tottenham	1.50	0	0	0	1	
32804	C Ferdinand	Tottenham	1.50	0	4	0	21	
32805	R Ferdinand	West Ham	2.50	0	1	0	17	
32806	R Hall	West Ham	2.00	0	0	0	0	
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham	2.00	0	2	0	24	
32802	S Potts	West Ham	1.50	0	0	0	10	
32804	I Pearce	West Ham	2.00	0	5	0	19	
31001	A Roberts	Wimbledon	1.50	0	13	0	23	
33001	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	8	0	29	
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	3	0	25	

**MIDFIELD PLAYERS**

Code	Name	Team	£	FA(w)	FA	Lg(w)	Lg	Tot
40605	J Pollock	Bolton	2.00	0	1	0	37	
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	0	0	12	
42503	R Bliniker	Celtic	3.00	0	2	0	24	
40704	C Burley	Celtic	4.00	0	6	6	82	
40705	P Lambert	Celtic	3.00	0	6	3	45	
40801	D Wilson	Chelsea	3.50	0	0	0	43	
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	0	0	43	
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	1.50	0	0	0	16	
40804	G Foyet	Chelsea	3.00	0	0	0	28	
40801	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	0	0	0	20	
40902	T Soltvedt	Coventry City	1.50	0	5	0	43	
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	15	
40904	P Teffer	Coventry City	1.50	4	12	4	38	
40905	G Boateng	Coventry City	1.50	1	3	1	13	
41002	S Rodgers	C Palace	1.00	0	6	2	38	
41003	D Pitcher	C Palace	0.25	0	0	0	0	
41004	P Warhurst	C Palace	1.50	0	3	0	34	
41005	A Lombardo	C Palace	3.00	0	0	5	27	
41102	S Eranilo	Derby County	3.50	0	1	0	38	
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	3	0	21	
41104	C Dally	Derby County	1.50	0	0	0	25	
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	0	0	0	0	
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	0	0	18	
42401	R Winters	Dunfermline	3.50	0	2	0	63	
41107	A Smith	Dunfermline	1.50	0	0	0	0	
41108	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	1	0	21	
41109	D Williamson	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	19	
41405	J Oater	Everton	2.50	0	-1	0	11	
41406	D Hutchison	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	2	
41501	N McCann	Hearts	3.50	0	7	3	81	
41502	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	1	0	13	
41503	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0	6	3	34	
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0	0	11	
41801	D Hopkins	Leeds Utd						



NEWS

Yeltsin sacks his Government

President Yeltsin stunned Russia by dismissing his entire Government and promising to appoint a more energetic team to push through reforms in his last two years in office.

Legal action over World Cup tickets

The French organisers of the World Cup face a multimillion-pound fine after rejecting a compromise that would have freed more tickets for England fans.

Presidential visit

It is impossible to ignore the arrival of the President of the United States but some of Africa's poorest people must have wondered whether Bill Clinton was a visiting Pharaoh.

Kinder zoos

A British initiative to end cruelty in European zoos took a big step forward when a majority of environment ministers agreed to back legally binding standards of animal welfare.

Police inquiries

Inquiries into serious allegations against police officers could be carried out by independent investigators.

Teaching delay

MPs are to investigate whether schools should delay teaching the three Rs as evidence grows that boys are being turned off school by starting sums and spelling too early.

Body smuggling

An aristocratic artist paid a technician to help him to smuggle heads, limbs and torsos from an anatomy laboratory to use as moulds for his sculptures.

Celebrity bash

A new wave of celebrities who endorsed Labour before the general election joined the criticism of the Government's policy on the minimum wage.

BBC lottery row

The chairman of the BBC governors sparked a new row after backing a National Lottery game show that is said to promote a commercial product.

Amazon rescue

Brazil launched a belated rescue operation in the Amazon to tackle flames that have engulfed nearly 20,000 square miles of highland savanna and rainforest.

Play it again

One of cinema's greatest love stories is to get a new beginning and new ending. An American writer has been commissioned to produce a prequel and sequel to Casablanca.

Albanian rift

A Roman Catholic missionary who has spent two years mediating in Kosovo was jeered by Serbian teenagers as he presented an "agreement" for a joint education system with Albanians.

Accident awards

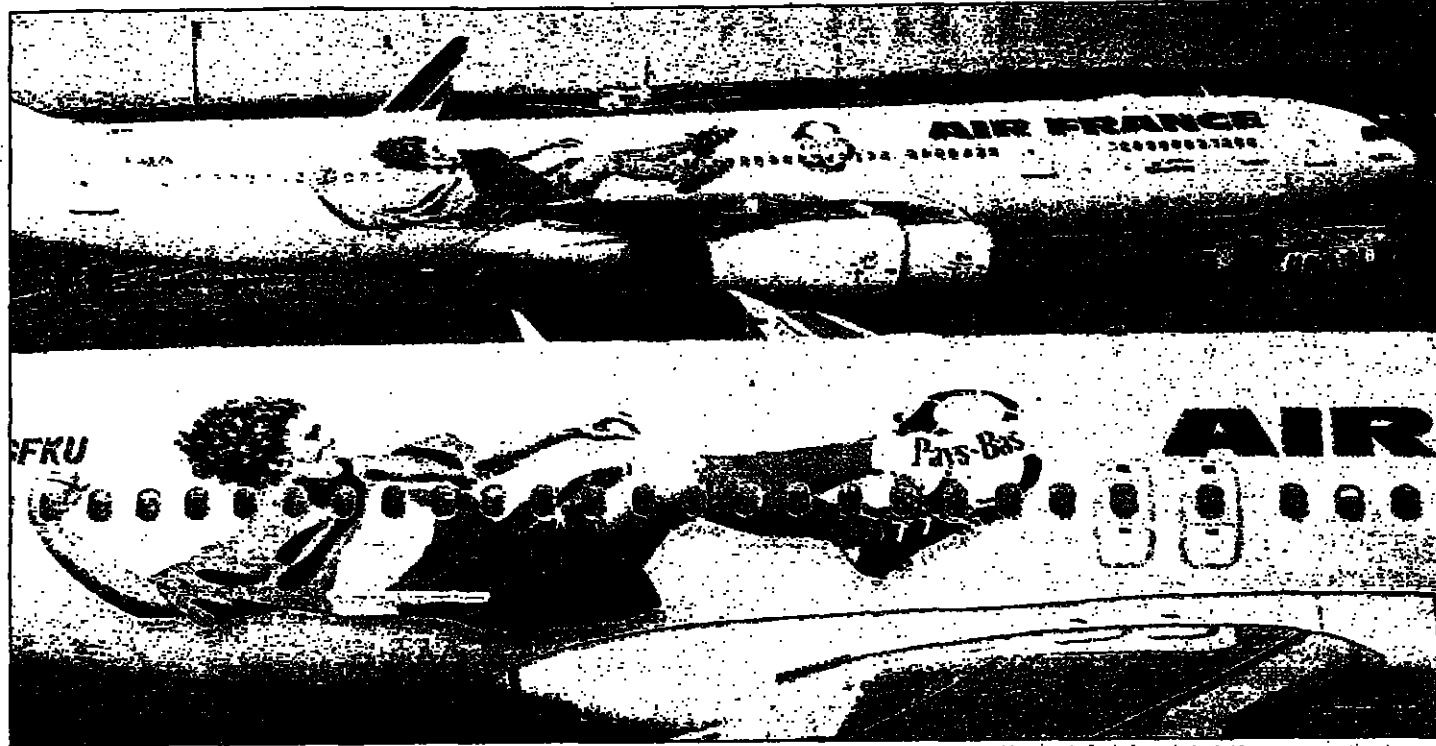
Two accident victims awarded £700,000 would not have received a penny under plans to scrap legal aid for personal injuries.

Small miracle

The Pope left Nigeria after a three-day visit, amid speculation from observers that he must have performed a small miracle in surviving the trip.

Picking the perfect parking space

In car parks the unimaginative do best, according to an analysis by two American engineers. Volvo drivers who take the first lane available and then park in the first unoccupied space do better than go-getters in BMWs who race up and down trying to find the perfect space.



Air France yesterday unveiled 16 planes decorated to mark the World Cup—each side features a player from one of the 32 teams.

BUSINESS

Car parks: The founders of the NCP car park empire pocketed £580 million after selling the business to a US company.

Cricket: England needed to score 373 to avoid an innings defeat in the final Test after West Indies declared at 500 for seven.

Girls and boys: To the deafening accompaniment of screaming teenage girls, America's Backstreet Boys brought their slick routines to Wembley.

Death with dignity: Jane Macdonald, who suffers from breast cancer, multiple sclerosis and osteoporosis, has become a campaigner for euthanasia.

Books: Bertelsmann is to buy Random House, making the German media group the biggest publisher of English language general books.

Football: Paul Gascoigne seems increasingly likely to stay in Glasgow with Rangers, at least in the short term, when he announces his career plans today.

Well Met: In just five days the audience at the New York Metropolitan Opera were treated to Domingo, Favarotti and Robert Wilson's Lohengrin.

Beach boy: Former pop icon Andrew Ridgeley has swapped life in the fast lane for a Cornish cottage and a surfboard.

Savoy: The takeover frenzy surrounding the Savoy Group drove the A shares 137p higher to £18.875p, taking the gain in two days' trading to over 25 per cent.

Rowing: Cambridge scaled an average of almost 15 stone a man at the official weigh-in, making them the heaviest Boat Race crew ever, with a 13lb advantage over Oxford.

Russian power: Some 50 of Russia's finest icons are on show at the Royal Academy's Sackler Wing, and Richard Cork is amazed by their variety.

The winners are... Academy Awards presenters are guaranteed to sweep the board on Oscars night. They are unpaid but showered with lavish gifts.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell by 9.3 points to close at 5947.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 107.4 to 107.9 after a rise from \$1.6648 to \$1.6768 and from DM3.0536 to DM3.0660.

Rugby union: Scotland are likely to be without several key players for their tour to Australia this summer, including Doddie Weir, Alan Tait and Rob Wainwright.

Teen queens: Fifteen-year-olds Stacey and Tara are preoccupied with exams and sex in The Girls, Judy Upton's short play about peer-group pressure and treachery.

Pro bono: Call it a stirring of the profession's conscience or a cynical ploy to improve a poor public image. Either way, solicitors are doing what may seem unthinkable: they are working free of charge.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE In the guide to new technology: why Our Mutual Friend star Anna Friel loves the Net

CRÈME In our secretarial supplement how to float away workaday cares in a tank of Epsom salts

Libby Purves The passing of a spirit has always been seen as something solemn and significant. You could argue that because the dying man fully understood what he was doing, then this programme is not a form of theft but a form of gift: a reminder that most deaths are neither violent nor premature but a natural passage.

ANATOLE KALETSKY Economic and Monetary Union will not just be a single monetary zone. The single currency, single interest rate policy and the new European Central Bank will produce a full-scale merger of the European economies into a new kind of supranational political conglomerate.

Beverly Cross, playwright; Sir Anthony Fell, former Tory MP; Sir Arthur Hoole, former President of the Law Society.

Budget proposals for cars; workers' value; King's Library; museum charges; reporting Parliament; reserve forces cuts; Tory party reform; Middle East peace; Masai wife-beating; advertising for ambassadors; polar bears and penguins.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,747

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28 indicating starting positions for clues.

- ACROSS 1 Quickly concentrated, as bimbo might appear? (5,3,4). 9 Genius dispatching wife to get channels (5). 10 Bottles out as result of such deliveries? (4,5). 11 They tackle corruption in deputy's court (4,5). 12 Prison officers occupied with old standard (5). 13 Half the Navy regarded as a soft element? (6). 15 Dressed in braces? (3,2,3). 16 Parodies flawed proof? Yes (8). 18 Anger less than appropriate for such a person? (6). 22 Extreme discomfort in alien country? (5). 24 The fruit of rewriting parable with PC elements? (4,5). 26 House elder brother for a band leader (4,5). 27 Some influx originally appears here in 22 (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20746. A grid of letters corresponding to the crossword puzzle.

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Weather by Fax Dial 0236 565000 for an instant weather report from your fax.

World City Weather The Met Office 153 destinations world wide 6 day forecasts by phone 0236 411216 by fax (order page) 0236 413323

Motorway Europe Country by Country 0336 401 895 European fees 0336 401 897

Car reports by fax new and used car reports from 1000+ dealers 0236 416 200

NEAREST & LOWEST... Yesterday's Highest day lamp: Cardiff 14C (52F). Lowest day lamp: Inverness, Aberdeen, SC (32F). Highest night: South Lake Range, Wiltshire, 0.1in, highest sunrise: Jersey 10.8h.

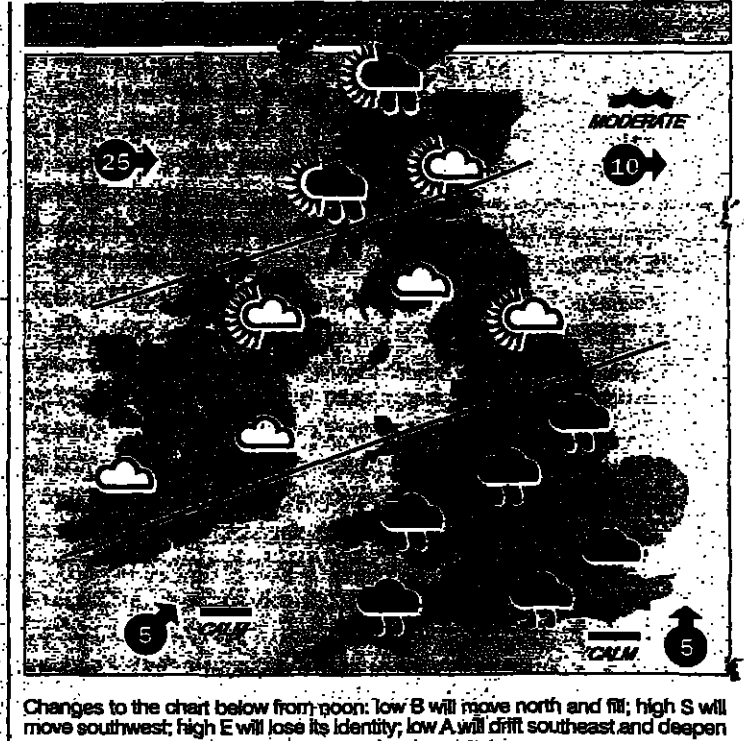
NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

WPA CAN'T CEDAR WOOD FOR THE TREES! So many private health schemes, so many choices. WPA Cedar is the simple choice value-for-money, all the benefits you want, and unbeatable customer service.

General: northern Scotland will be colder than recently with sunny spells and a few showers. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will start cloudy with patchy rain but it will soon brighten up with sunny spells and occasional showers.

Table with columns: Sun, Rain, Wind, etc. for various cities like Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.

Table with columns: City, Temp, Wind, etc. for various cities like Alcala, Alicante, Amsterdam, etc.



Changes to the chart below from noon: low B will move north and fill; high S will move southwest; high E will lose its identity; low A will drift southwest and deepen.

Table with columns: City, AM, HT, PM, HT for various cities like Aberdeen, Amsterdam, Barcelona, etc.

Car in £

Take Savoy



















# Battle to take the fear out of regulation

Risk is a concept that tends to sit uneasily within the framework of Government. Governments like certainty, the security of knowing that a crisis is not waiting just around the corner. Health scares, transport disasters and dangerous dogs are the stuff of ministerial nightmares — the unanticipated problems that all too often can break even the most glittering career.

This anti-risk attitude, inevitably, colours the Whitehall approach to regulation. When crises do break — as they have the rather unfortunate habit of doing only too frequently — it is only natural that the Government bows to the clamour from the "something must be done" brigade.

Governments can normally only blame everyone else for a disaster just once. The understandable instinct is to frame new legislation to try to "out-law" the problem effectively.

The crisis-regulation tendency runs deeper than ideology. It was a Conservative Gov-

ernment that rushed through legislation on child safety and outdoor pursuit courses after the death of a number of children in a canoeing accident. Even though the existing regulatory framework was sufficiently strong to prosecute the organiser for manslaughter, the Government, under pressure from the media, felt the need to introduce more stringent rules, putting it in danger of killing off the industry.

Business-friendly governments have long been keen to try to temper their own regulatory impulses. Deregulation committees existed as long ago as the Heath Government in the 1970s, always promising to slash the red-tape burden for businesses, but rarely delivering. Even the European Union is belatedly attempting to get in on the act, although its several hundred page multi-lingual epic — delivered at the recent EU conference on improving regulation — hardly bodes well.

Back in the UK, Labour is attempting to give a new lease

## THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS



ALASDAIR MURRAY

of life to the perennial regulation battle. It has re-established the deregulation committee, called the Better Regulation Task Force in its latest incarnation, under the guidance of Chris Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods and a long-time Labour supporter. The committee is nominally run from the Cabinet Office but the feeling is that with the ultra business-sensitive Tony Blair keen to keep industry on-side, orders are as likely to emanate from Number 10 as from David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Much of the new committee's work is familiar. It is targeting what Mr Haskins calls the "festering sores" of licensing laws and food standards. It is also working hard

at improving the mechanisms for scrutinising legislation before it makes the statute book. With important legislation on childcare, the elderly and food standards on the horizon, there is a determination to try to avoid mistakes before regulation reaches Parliament, where the opportunity for change is limited.

Mr Haskins has given warning that the thrust of the food standards legislation, in particular, could have unforeseen and ridiculous consequences such as effectively prohibiting the annual Women's Institute cake sale.

The size of the task the committee faces has been highlighted by some serious knee-jerk behaviour in other areas of the Government, such

as over the beef-on-the-bone crisis. But Nigel Griffiths, the Consumer Affairs Minister, has also succeeded in conveying the impression that he wants to legislate out of existence any product that could pose even the tiniest threat to the consumer — much to the despair of task force members.

This is why Mr Haskins argues that his task is as much to try to push through a cultural change in Whitehall, and even at local authority level, as to iron out glitches in regulation. The task force has to become the champion of risk in Government, proselytising in enforcement and the need for all arms of the Government to devise proportional responses to its problems.

This is much more than an attempt to devise a business-friendly approach. The better regulation drive has the potential to become a central part of the new Labour project. The flipside of a campaign to persuade Government that

risk is not only an inherent part of life, but also a necessity, is that the public has to be persuaded of the need to take more responsibility. A less clumsy approach to regulation should not only encourage a move away from dependency but will foster respect for the rules that are on the statute book.

Poor laws and regulations tend to undermine the whole system, prompting non-compliance and even ridicule as the beef-on-the-bone saga has amply demonstrated.

The logic of the Better Regulation approach could come straight from a Frank Field speech on welfare. No matter how well-intended the task force approach is, however, Labour will still have to overcome its equally strong instinct to pretend that it has all the answers.

When the next crisis breaks, the measure of Mr Haskins' success will be whether his risk-accommodating approach does more than fall on deaf ears.

## MARKETING

# Professions take brand new approach

Just in case you had not noticed, BDO Stoy Hayward has launched a £500,000 nationwide poster campaign. This is not the usual form of promotion for a firm of accountants. Why should a company that knows who it is targeting and where it can find them resort to an expensive mass market medium such as posters? Is there method in the madness?

It certainly shows the lengths to which some professional firms will go to get their brand name noticed. It is part of a wider trend among both the accountancy and legal professions to re-evaluate the way they market themselves.

It comes at a time of upheaval in both professions, as a super-league of firms emerges from a succession of acquisitions and mergers such as Price Waterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand, or in Arthur Andersen's case diversification — it has just signed up Wilde Sapte, the law firm, to its network.

Trailing in their wake is a second division, eager to establish themselves. And, in the ensuing scrum for market share, professional firms are going to rely increasingly on marketing and branding to give them an edge over their competitors.

Not so long ago these firms would have blanched at the thought of such brazen commercial methods as large-scale advertising. For years the professions have been marketing themselves, only they called it "practice development". Partners lunched, spoke at seminars, sent out letters and reports and swung a nine-iron to bring in the business. Little thought was given to exploiting the potential of the brand name.

As one ex-marketing director of a medium-sized legal firm can testify: "Partners are great ambassadors for their own patch, but are lost when it comes to raising awareness of the company brand."

But at this level, marketing in itself is no longer enough, says Richard Chaplin, who advises the Institute of Chartered Accountants on marketing matters. "You want to market your firm as the one that the client calls whenever there is a problem. To be that trusted business partner, not just someone who's there to do the tax forms."

Like the management consultants and advertising agencies before them, the professions are scrambling

for a place at the top table. This view is upheld by Allyson Stewart Allen, of the consultants International Marketing Partners, which specialises in marketing of the professions. She says they are some way behind their counterparts in other industries and the fee system ensures that partners are motivated primarily to build their own empires.

They tend not to care much about marketing, literature tends to be "eccentric" and focuses on the achievements and status of the firm rather than the benefits they can deliver to a client, follow-throughs of campaigns are almost non-existent and their view of the competition is myopic.

"The successful firms are the ones that are marketing themselves as business advisers and not just legal advisers," she says.

Which brings us back to why BDO Stoy Hayward is undertaking what appears to be such a radical move.

Richard Emanuel, marketing director, explains: "Too many firms are trying to build up expertise in too many niches; the client only ends up getting confused. We are trying to get one message across, which is about making your business grow and then offering clients the specialist services."

Mr Emanuel's solution is to associate the BDO brand with the virtues of sound advice and solid growth, rather than merely promoting services any number of his competitors can match.

The posters invite businesses to "Come here and multiply", and in the coming weeks 5,000 businessmen will receive a follow-up call. Expensive, perhaps, but necessary if one is trying to break the mould. "We could have written a lot more letters for that money, but letters themselves are no longer enough," says Mr Emanuel. BDO might be onto something. Findings from CSS, the market research company, tell us that marketing can be an effective method of influencing a buying decision. While less than half of finance directors could recall any specific marketing activity from accountants (perhaps explained by the paucity of traditional marketing methods), some 16 per cent said they were positively influenced by it.

JULIAN LEE

# Ignorance will be no excuse for managers when the euro arrives

In *The Times* yesterday, John Redwood warned British companies not to be blinkered to the advent of the single currency. Today Laura Sandys argues that, even though Britain is not surfing the first wave into the euro, it offers companies the chance to gain competitive advantage



Laura Sandys says companies gunning for UK EMU entry should make the euro a part of everyday life

Whether one is politically pro or anti the single currency, there are some important business opportunities that should not be overlooked.

From January 1999 the single currency will be a reality for many of our trading partners. Good business means spending time and effort understanding the changes that overseas customers are experiencing. Just because it is not happening here will not excuse ignorance. Systems may need to be adapted, legal and financial teams will need to understand the implications of convergence and contractual changes may need to be made with suppliers or customers.

Just because transition to the euro will not be without difficulties or expense, there is no reason why companies should feel negative about the end result.

The key question for UK-based companies is, once EMU is a reality for their customers, suppliers and, of course, competitors, are UK businesses going to take a passive role and allow this all-pervading commercial change to impact upon them? Or are they going to evaluate the potential for commercial gain?

There are two key opportunities that lie before the forward-thinking managing director. The first is to exploit the potential of cross-border consolidation from the beginning. The second is to use the new currency to gain a positive profile with customers — both on the Continent and in the UK.

In many ways the transi-

tion process offers UK businesses a competitive advantage. Without the more complex internal structural changes that will impact in Germany, France and Benelux, the UK can exploit the cross-border opportunities. Launching new pan-European products, developing more cohesive distribution channels, taking advantage of new alliances and pursuing acquisitions should all be greatly assisted by EMU. The next few years could offer British companies the time to develop creative and profitable strategies with the assistance of the low-cost market

entry, centralised operations and marketing synergy, while the primary entrants are diverted by their internal restructuring.

However, successful exploitation of this historic period in European trade and commerce requires one key factor that John Redwood unfortunately omitted in his article. UK companies need to show commercial enthusiasm and corporate leadership for working with the new currency.

Those companies that develop leadership strategies — reflecting Tony Blair's new approach to Europe —

can secure some important marketing advantages and enhance their investor credentials within the UK. As this transition process requires close consultation and communications through the supply chain, reaching eventually to the consumer, what better way for a company to develop and enhance its business relationships than being euro-positive? Those businesses that decide to educate their supply chain, those fast-moving consumer goods companies that enlighten the consumer, and those that use the single currency advantages to launch new products

in the UK, will be carving out significant market differentiation for themselves.

The financial services sector will be able to exploit single currency marketing opportunities more than most. With the potential for euro financial products, we can expect a myriad of new ways to invest, save and borrow. However, in order for these products to be successful, the UK consumer will need to be educated about the benefits, establishing confidence and loyalty in this quintessentially European innovation.

Companies that service those with cross-border in-

terests will need to be ahead of the game. For example, fuel companies that provide fuel cards for the haulage industry will need to ensure that their systems can effectively manage euro transition. But, in addition to coping merely with the change, these suppliers could gain a marketing advantage by taking the responsibility to inform their customers, from the finance director to the trucker, of the implications of EMU. Special EMU giveaways and fun merchandising could supplement the traditional and boring "currency leaflet".

If the UK enters the single currency, retailers will need to manage the sharp end of single currency confusion. However, there are UK retailers today who either have pan-European outlets or cater for the tourist trade and will need to be dealing in euros. These retailers can make the most of their early involvement and use their experience to gain a marketing edge, leading consumer education and gaining loyalty for the future.

We should be ready to see the euro mortgage advertised on TV, euro converters given to schoolchildren by the forward-looking financial service companies, and euro collector coins available on cornflake packets.

Those companies that are gunning for UK EMU entry should use their market position to acclimatise the consumer, making the euro a part of everyday life, and breaking down the existing prejudices.

The most important tribute will be in five years' time if the UK corporate sector is able to proudly state that its enthusiasm and leadership has resulted in greater penetration of the European marketplace. All these without even the need to enter the single currency — this should make Mr Redwood very pleased.

Laura Sandys is managing director of LSA public corporate and political relations and has recently launched a Euro Communications Unit

# German joke

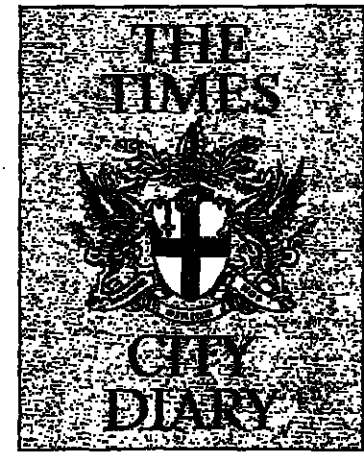
I WONDER just what was behind the full-page advertisements placed in *The Times* and a couple of other papers yesterday by Deutsche Börse, the German futures market and bitter rival to our own Liffe. It wasn't quite "Ze Vor is over for you now, Tommy, I zink", but almost. With heavy-handed irony the Germans apologised for capturing 70 per cent of business in German government bond futures. They then offered their own trading system to Liffe, free.

Liffe, which plans its own electronic trading system, said the German one is way out of date. All rival systems were evaluated, and it came bottom, by a long way. The Börse is well aware of this. The only assumption must be that it is an expensive joke, or, as Liffe would have it, the Germans are worried about the competition. If it was a sensible offer, why wasn't it made direct at the futures industry jamboree last week at Boca Raton, Florida, attended by everyone, including Jack Wigglesworth, Liffe's chairman, and Daniel Hodson, chief executive?



Offer could have been made to Daniel Hodson last week

□ A CURIOUS tale from the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium in faraway and exotic Manor Park. There are eight miles of roads, and a white back somebody chose a Jaguar X16 Sport to ferry members of the public to the graves. The relevant sub-committee has been asked to approve retrospectively the £16,000 purchase of the car last October. And its immediate sale. "Whilst a car is not particularly suited or practicable for this purpose," the minutes say, it does rather beg the question, does it not, what they thought they were buying when they ordered a Jag?



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Love all  
MICHAEL DOBSON, chief executive of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, is the man who got out from under the Peter Young affair that cost poor Keith Percy his job. He then presided over the departure/blowing out/sacking (take your choice) of Nicola Horlick. So it is probably safe to say that he is not universally popular. But someone loves him. Dobson today announces his engagement to Frances de Sails, who works in antiquarian books.

clutching a CD called Red Dragon, the latest offering by the premier Hungarian modern jazz group. (I will spot you about nine Norwegians, any number of Germans, a clutch of Russians, even the odd Pole, playing modern jazz. But no Hungarians yet.) Gabor Kleinhencz used to play bass before he took up accountancy and ended up running Morgan Crucible's Hungarian operations. The company is sponsoring the second record he has put together using local musicians. Graham Sweetman, finance director, says deadpan: "This is not a core competency or area of diversification. EMI shouldn't worry."

What sort of jazz is it, I ask? The sort that sounds like farmyard animals being tortured to death in an iron lung, or Acker Bilk? "It's Hungarian jazz," he says uncertainly. Oddly enough, this is just what my previous two informants told me, so it seems no one is very certain.

Summit dreams  
IF IT were me, I would be worried they were trying to tell me something. But Robert Owen, who has only been at ABN Amro for a month, has been given eight weeks to go away and climb Everest. This is the climbing season for the world's highest mountain, and it can look a bit like Broadgate on a busy day, but Owen, suitably an emerging markets salesman, flew out last night to shoulder

his way to the summit. He is, of course, the second City type to do so in recent months; Mark Warham of Schroders went last year.

The climb is in aid of Big Orange Bus, the East Europe children's charity, and it was paid for by BZW, although they don't know it yet. Owen worked briefly for BZW's Japanese division before it was shut down, and he is devoting his redundancy money to the venture. And wisely proving his loyalty to his new employer by carrying an ABN Amro flag up to the top for planting on the summit.



MARTIN WALLER  
Everest, another City man heads for the summit

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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized in columns with headers for fund names, prices, and changes. Includes various categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market funds.

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# Full steam ahead for Britain's £7bn franchise sector

By Rodney Hobson

FRANCHISING is a £7 billion business, the annual NatWest Bank survey of the sector shows this week. The format provides employment for more than 270,000 people.

If the widest definition of franchising is taken, including car dealerships, soft drinks, the licensed trade and petrol retailing, annual sales are estimated to be £36.6 billion. The survey, conducted on behalf of the British Franchise Association, claims that a fifth of all retail trade in the UK is franchised and the figure is still growing. The main barrier to growth, franchisers say, is the lack of suitable franchisees.

The 1997 survey is the 14th to be conducted by NatWest. It found that there were 568 franchise systems operating to a set business format, a 5 per cent increase during the year. In the past four years the number of franchisees has increased by more than 50 per cent.

The number of franchised units grew 8.6 per cent last year to 29,100. Only in the franchised milk delivery services is there stagnation. Annual turnover grew 9.4 per cent. Last year's £7 billion figure compares with less than £1 billion when the first survey reported in 1984.

Peter Stern, head of the bank's franchise sector, says the outlook for franchising looks particularly bright this year. More franchisees than ever say they are satisfied with their relationship with their franchiser, and the overwhelming majority expect their business prospects to

improve, even though they think the economy has peaked.

He cites evidence to support the view that franchise systems are more likely to succeed than independent business start-ups. The average length of time that franchisees have been operating has increased to nine years. The proportion of franchisees reporting that they were above break-even was 92 per cent, compared with only 70 per cent at the start of the 1990s. More than half claimed to be highly or quite profitable.

Catering and hotels, already a large franchising sector, was among those showing the fastest growth. Other fast-expanding sectors were vehicle services and commercial and industrial services.

Although most franchisees do not specify any restrictions on age or gender, the typical franchisee is male, married and middle-aged, the NatWest survey indicates. Franchisers say they are looking for individuals with selling, marketing or general business experience. They look for evidence of self-motivation, determination, financial acumen and a positive attitude towards work.

The average total initial outlay for setting up a franchise rose during the year from £40,200 to £42,800. The average management service fee and advertising levy is usually about 10 per cent of turnover.



NatWest's Peter Stern says the outlook for franchising looks bright

# Apprentice printers who forged unlikely alliance

Harriet Warner finds two antiques enthusiasts who set their stall out early



Keith Freeman and Robin Lloyd enjoy rich pickings at fairs

Although they will be surrounded by beautiful furniture from the 18th century, two dealers at the local antique dealers' association (BADA) Antiques Fair this week, Keith Freeman and Robin Lloyd will still remember the years they spent wiping printing ink from their hands.

The duo from Chatham, Kent, are among an elite group of antique dealers who are BADA members. They met in 1963 while on day-release at the local art college. They were both 15 years old and had left school with no GCSEs.

For five years they served as apprentice journeyman printers. It was Mr Freeman's 21st birthday party that changed everything. A family friend gave him an antique sherry decanter. Mr Freeman got the bug and his enthusiasm quickly spread to Mr Lloyd.

Antiques were just easing their way into the national consciousness: Arthur Negus and *Going for a Song* started on TV and antique centres and shops were springing up everywhere.

The two friends took a 5ft stand at Sandgate, Kent, for £3 a week, a sizeable amount given that their wages were £12 a week. Suddenly they were faced with the problem of stocking their stand. Among rub-

bish cleared out by an aunt they found brass candlesticks and a Victorian workbox. Another aunt said she had "a few bits of silver" that turned out to be a set of six Georgian teaspoons with matching sugar tongs.

The weekend went well. The Victorian workbox sold for £20 and the Georgian spoons for £21. Mr Lloyd remembers thinking: "Isn't this easy?" It was almost double the weekly wage at the printers.

They took a regular weekend pitch and continued their day jobs, taking a half day during the week to buy. After three years they took the stand permanently. Mr Freeman earned more from his full-time job, so Mr Lloyd left work to man the stall during the week.

Takings increased sevenfold.

"We were buying everything from stuffed fish to tea caddies," remembers Mr Freeman. They bought an 18th-century enamel cup and saucer for £18 and sold it for £25 to a dealer who promptly resold it for £125. Mr Lloyd said: "We were devastated. We kept thinking what we could have bought with that money. But it was all a learning experience."

Takings continued to increase and in 1972 Mr Freeman was able to leave the printers and join Mr Lloyd full-time. But they felt they were losing their identity by remaining among the other market dealers, so in 1974 they leased a shop across the road. "It was downhill all the way from then on," says Mr Freeman.

They found that the numbers that came to the Sandgate Antiques Centre did not automatically venture to their shop. It took eight years to get firmly established. But in 1989 things faltered. The recession struck hard at the antique sector and the pieces Mr Freeman and Mr Lloyd were buying by then were of such high standard and price that they were no longer affordable to most of their existing clients.

"We decided to do the London fairs," says Mr Lloyd. "We'd never wanted to before, because a stand would cost an average of £5,000 and we just could not see how we would get our money back."

They took a stand at a five-day antiques fair at Olympia in 1991. Three days went by and they sold nothing. But on the fourth day they sold five pieces within an hour, making more money than in three months of trading at the shop.

# VAT man to step up battle on tax dodgers

OWNER-MANAGED businesses face a spate of tax investigations as Customs and Excise and the Inland Revenue step up their battle against fraud and evasion, says Grant Thornton, the accountants.

Mike Warburton, senior partner, says that in 1996-97 Inland Revenue tax sleuths recovered more than £1.6 billion from tax dodgers, and the number of people coming under investigation is set to increase dramatically.

Mr Warburton says: "Over the next three years, as part of its spend and save initiative, the Revenue is planning to increase activity in the high-risk areas of the tax system, specifically to tackle fraud and evasion. Additional funding has been allocated and in the current tax year alone the Revenue is targeting full inquiries into at least 1.3 per cent of business taxpayers. Investigations can be extremely intimidating and even innocent mistakes lead to problems and the possibility of costly fines."

David Ratcliffe, VAT partner, says the past 18 months have seen a determined effort to pinpoint businesses guilty of short-changing the VAT man. He fears that hard-pressed owner-managers keeping inadequate or incomplete records will be tarred with the same brush as willful tax evaders. He reckons that more than half of all VAT local office inquiries result in an assessment for additional VAT.

Copies of a free booklet, *Helping you to get over tax and VAT investigations*, are available from Justice Manche at Grant Thornton, Melton Street, Euston Square, London, NW1 2EP.

### BRIEFINGS

- Business Expo will be held at Wembley Exhibition Centre on May 9-10. Advance tickets from 0117-973 5333.
- The Human Resource Development Week exhibition, organised by the Institute of Personnel and Development, opens at Olympia, London, next Tuesday.
- More than 55 per cent of 500 small companies surveyed for Business Pages had little or no training to help their businesses to grow and 63 per cent said seminars and courses available were unhelpful.

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# Smooth, Happy and Streetwise

While Gary Barlow was preparing to bring his solo show to London (see review below), Backstreet Boys played the first of three concerts at Wembley Arena. Since the demise of Barlow's former band Take That, the boy band throne has been occupied by Boyzone. But Backstreet Boys, from Orlando, Florida, are about to change that.

**Backstreet Boys**  
Wembley Arena

While not exactly America's answer to the Spice Girls, the boys too come from an acting, rather than a singing, background and could easily be marketed as five individuals.

The potential for this became clear when the five of them took it in turns to sing a solo. First there was Howie D, Smooth Boy, who looked as if he was trying a little too hard when he appeared out of a trap door with a bunch of red roses. He was followed by AJ, the tattooed Streetwise Boy, Kevin, Serious Boy, and Brian, Happy Boy, who came skipping on with an acoustic guitar. And then came Nick, the Boy Everyone Fancies, all floppy blond hair and sultry pouts.

In just over a year they have had five consecutive Top Five singles while their second album, *Backstreet's Back*, has sold nine million copies since it was released last August. The band also carried off five awards, including the modest laurel of Best Band In The Entire Universe, at *Smash Hits* magazine's Annual Poll Winners Party, a barometer of teen tastes. There is absolutely no doubt as to Backstreet Boys' appeal. Their Wembley crowd was almost exclusively made up of teenage girls, all intent on blowing whistles or screaming their lungs out. An early indication of exactly how much noise they were capable of making came an hour before showtime when a compere announced: "Nick's just come out of the shower."

The build-up continued until Backstreet Boys eventually appeared through a dramatic flash of light. Dressed in ski wear and goggles, they began with the rallying call of *That's The Way I Like It* and got straight into their carefully choreographed dance routine.

Their synchronised singing and dance moves did not leave much room for spontaneity, although Howie D attempted to introduce some by "sacking" the backing band before their biggest hit, *All I Have To Give*, allowing the five of them to take over instead. The grand finale came with *Everybody (Backstreet's Back)*, which climaxed with an impressive fireworks display. But the smart fans were already running round the back of the arena hoping for a glimpse of Nick after his post-show shower.

ANN SCANLON



Probably the Best Band In The Entire Universe: the five Backstreet Boys from Florida strut their slick stuff on stage at Wembley to a chorus of screams from the teens

It is always tempting to underplay Gary Barlow's success as a solo act, especially now that the career of his former Take That colleague, Robbie Williams, has taken off so spectacularly. But Barlow can still boast two No 1 singles and a million-selling album to his name. What he does not have is the outgoing manner and natural charisma that have enabled Williams to endear himself to critics and fans alike. Arriving on stage in his dark blazer and black trousers, Barlow set off at an

## Ready to Take That and party on

**Gary Barlow**  
Apollo, W6

energetic pace with the polite, up-tempo funk of *Labour Of Love*, swinging his hips and pointing in the air in that John Travolta-patented gesture that has endeared many an office party over the years. As with the versions of Otis Redding's *Hard To Handle* and Andrew Roachford's *Cuddly Toy* that he sang towards the end of the show, there was an impression that this was not the sort of

material to which his performing style was ideally suited, although these songs certainly gave a valuable lift to the set. Even so, as he eased into the mid-paced, disco track of *Love Won't Wait*, it quickly became apparent that his authority

over this audience was absolute. The merest hint from Barlow that it was time to clap hands, wave arms or sing along was immediately and vigorously acted upon by the 3,000-strong crowd of admirers, most of them young and all overexcited.

But it was only when he switched gear for *My Commitment*, a power-pop ballad with a slight reggae lilt, that Barlow's strength as an enter-

tainer became fully apparent. After some initial show-boating, he sang the number with complete conviction, addressing the sentiment not to some imaginary third party but, as with so many of his songs, directly to the audience.

Then, sitting at a piano, he steered band and audience alike through a magnificent version of *Back For Good*, his voice drifting in and out of the

falsetto range with supple ease, as the preface to a surprisingly tasteful medley of Take That songs including *Love Ain't Here Anymore* and *A Million Love Songs*.

Maybe Barlow does lack the force of personality to be counted among the great live acts. But he sang well and presented an amiable front. Never snug or remote, generous to his band and hard-working almost to a fault, he put on a performance which commanded respect.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Take a medal for modernism

CONCERTS

At a time when orchestras are struggling for audiences, indeed for survival, it is heartening to report a solid turnout at the Barbican on Sunday for a concert unashamedly celebrating the good old-fashioned values of modernism. It was a very special occasion, for two reasons.

First, it was the second of two concerts in which Pierre Boulez, with the London Symphony Orchestra (in superb form), paid tribute to that unapologetic American modernist, Elliott Carter, on his 90th birthday. Secondly, the opportunity was taken for Boulez himself to receive the Royal Philharmonic Society's Gold Medal. In presenting it to him, Alfred Brendel cited Boulez's multifarious talents and achievements, praising his unwavering dedication to the cause in these days of "crossover" compromises.

This was the kind of repertoire that brings out the best in Boulez. Carter's *Symphony of Three Orchestras* (1976) effectively consists of three symphonies played simultaneously by the three orchestras into which the larger ensemble is divided. The composer's love of refracting present reality by the presentation of different planes of activity offers a daunting challenge to a single conductor, but not to Boulez, who could conduct a different orchestra with each

of his fingers if necessary. Here, his control of the ferment of surface activity was an object lesson in focusing on the essentials in a sea of conflicting currents.

No less impressive was the clear course he steered through another tough modernist score: Schoenberg's *Piano Concerto*. A work that can seem impenetrable in less secure hands here emerged with a lucidity and immediacy of expression that made one wonder why it is not heard more often. Perhaps because there are not many pianists like Emanuel Ax, prepared to commit themselves to its advocacy, or capable of bridging the grand, rhetorical, post-Lisztian style in which it culminates.

This skillfully constructed programme began with Bartók's *Four Orchestral Pieces*, evoking a Debussian world of shadows and half-colours, before concluding in implacably funereal mood, Debussy's *La Mer*, under Boulez's control, never sounded merely sensual; it swept forward with inevitable logic on an unstoppable tide.

BARRY MELLINGTON

## Protracted chill

Of all the many Winter Journeys undertaken here during the last year or so, this was by far the longest and most arduous. Every singer must find his "own way in this darkness", as the first song of Schubert's *Winterreise* has it. The German baritone Thomas Quasthoff trudged in the snow for no less than one and a half hours, without interval or pause.

Speed, of course, is relative — and nowhere more so than in this cycle of no time, no place. A singer's tempi are judged by a complex of considerations: the weight of the voice — and Quasthoff is no lightweight, a personal instinct for the weight and measure of the words; and, ideally, a wider knowledge of the composer's writing. Quasthoff, and his obedient accompanist, Charles Spencer, had every right to choose what were often extremely slow speeds. The attention to detail within the first song alone revealed at once how deeply serious and intensely felt were Quasthoff's intentions. But with such daringly slow tempi, the music's inner tension has to be maintained by taut rhythmic definition, and by a shrewd judgment of the tem-

po relationship between songs. This was the weak link in Quasthoff's and Spencer's performance. Too often momentum gained within a song by vivid phrasing and the most skilful and imaginative use of half-voice, would be lost by an overlong pause between songs, by a failure to pick up on an echoing pulse, to hear a simple must-race in *Die Post*, and the lightning-flash accents of *Der stürmische Morgen* must, surely, be the emotional charge which drives the wanderer out of town on to the never-ending journey which Quasthoff's baritone followed with such dogged determination. Quasthoff is singing with an ever-increasing agility and sharpness of focus. What he now needs is a firm musical sounding board for his own ideas, and an accompanist with whom he can fine-tune his own responses.

HILARY FINCH

## Rescue mission

VERY much a game of two halves, as the football commentators would say. In the brief time she was on stage before the interval Fontella Bass gave a stirring lesson in unadorned, old-school gospel singing. Anticlimax beckoned. Having worked up a daunting head of steam, she never quite regained her momentum afterwards, seeming content to be almost a guest performer in her own show.

The audience, it has to be said, seemed happy to hear her brother, David Peaston, go through his showy melismatic exercises once more, but it was Bass, after all, that we had really come to hear.

While she may mean to be filed away as a one-hit wonder — it is more than 30 years since *Rescue Me* climbed into the Top Ten — Bass is no poor little songbird pining for former glories. A former pianist with the blues singer Little Milton, she sang jazz with her husband, the Art Ensemble trumpeter Lester Bowie. More recently she has returned to church music, and her most recent album *No Ways Tired* delivers rousing treatments of mainstream gospel material. In concert, Bass's stately voice stood comparison with Aretha Franklin at her most powerful, her organ player adding born-again ambience underneath the massed voices of the London-based Church of God in Christ choir.

But why she had to invite three men from the audience for a singalong on the climactic *Rescue Me* only she can answer. It was a relief to see the house lights come up.

CLIVE DAVIS

## Stars twinkle and fall

The audience of the Metropolitan Opera, addicted to the narcotic of star power, had no reason to complain this month: in the space of five days, it was exposed to a voluptuous new production of *Samson et Dalila* with Plácido Domingo, a severely modernist new *Lohengrin*, directed by Robert Wilson, with Ben Heppner in the name part; and a revival of *L'Élixir d'Amore* with Luciano Pavarotti as Nemorino.

The new *Samson*, produced by Elijah Moshinsky with designs by Richard Hudson, was a strange melange: the Hebrews were portrayed as drab Hassidim from turn-of-the-century Eastern Europe who had somehow wandered into a colourful African love feast. Hounded, who earned an Olivier nomination for *Volpone* at the National Theatre, has won great acclaim here for his inventive designs for Disney's Broadway production of *The Lion King*, and he seems to have lifted the unused pages from his *Lion King* sketchbook for this production, bedecking the Philistines in fezzes and kaftans with bizarre, towering headdresses and savage spikes stuck through their wigs.

As eye-catching as the production was, the music stole the show. Domingo sang with pleasing, fluid warmth; and while his *Dalila*, Denyce Graves, may have lacked the crisp Gallic edge for the role, she sang vibrantly, enlivening the opera's languors with a vivid stage presence. Leonard Slatkin conducted with authority and flair.

Going into any Robert Wilson production, one knows that pristine, glowing rectangles will slowly descend from the flies, that everyone will glide about on *Spree*-inspired dark cloaks, that hands will be frozen in unnatural positions under tiny spotlights. There is, admittedly, a strange, hypnotic beauty to his designs that seems at moments perfectly

**OPERA**  
*Samson et Dalila*  
New York Met

appropriate to Wagner; the tableau for *Lohengrin*'s first act prelude, an empty blue stage with a huge horizontal bar of gleaming white light slowly rising, was magnificent.

The problems in Wilson's productions always come about when he has to deal with human singers. Heppner and Deborah Voigt, his Elsa, don't need any help from the producer when it comes to appearing stately and monumental, and they looked distinctly uncomfortable as they drifted across the stage like icebergs.

In the first act Deborah Polaski, as Ortrud, appeared to feel as ridiculous as she looked, waving splayed fingertips about as though trying to dry her nail varnish. Yet all three sang gloriously, though Polaski didn't have quite the power needed to carry her through the final phrase, and the orchestra played nobly for its music director, James Levine. The opening night audience gave the musicians a

standing ovation, with good reason, and soundly booed the producer-designer — one fears for the wrong reasons.

Coming to see Pavarotti these days is increasingly like watching an ageing trapeze artist perform. Will he make it to the end without a smash-up? In January, on the opening night of this revival of John Copley's silly production of *L'Élixir d'Amore*, he sang badly, and sometimes not at all; at a gala concert at the Met a few days later he lost his way in a scene from *Luisa Miller*, and failed to appear after the interval, owing to "an episode of lightheadedness".

In a performance of *L'Élixir* last week he sang well, at moments reminding one of his great past performances here in this role, particularly in his eloquently nuanced recitatives. Yet he was clearly in some physical discomfort, frequently having to sit down to pant and wipe perspiration from his face. Ruth Ann Swenson was delightful as Adina, while Paul Plishka brought only modest comic flair to his performance as Dulcamara. Maurizio Benini, in his first appearances at the Met, conducted.

JAMIE JAMES

## Low budget gives Wagner a break

**Das Rheingold**  
Leicester

As Paul Crook and Malcolm Rivers indicated in their interview last week, this *Rheingold* is planned as a precursor of complete Ring cycles and a labour of love, funded with their own money. So one must proceed with tact and understanding. The audience in De Montfort Hall, who probably do not get to hear much Wagner, had a good time, but might do better to travel north



Plácido Domingo (Samson) and Denyce Graves (Dalila)

to Leeds or west to Birmingham to see his works done better. With the best will in the world, this really was not awfully good.

Andrew Constantine conducted his largely amateur Bardic Orchestra. With more, or rather money, the players might have gained greater confidence with the notes, made fewer false or tentative entries, and found more convincing balance between sections of the orchestra. Even so, they would have had trouble transcending their conductor's desperately workaday approach, light years from the world of Reginald Goodall, to whose example the

Rivers and Crook make no secret of their disdain for most modern Wagner productions, but whether this rudimentary shoestring staging serves the composer better is a moot point. A cinema screen lit in green, blue and red, a dance-hall glitter-ball, one stool and bring-your-own-costumes, and that's it.

With their long experience in the roles, Rivers and Crook naturally did best as Alberich and Mime; the rest were left to their own devices. Neil Howlett, ex-ENO principal baritone and now director of repertoire at the Royal Northern College, sang strongly as Wotan and would doubtless give a less bland performance were it I dare mention the word, a producer involved. Oldsters got a nostalgic charge out of seeing a venerable, white-haired Alberto Remedios (Siegfried) in those Coliseum cycles 20 years ago) as Froh, his trumpet tones intact. Ruth Peel made a mellifluous, firm-toned Erda, and Rebecca de Pont Davies a notable Flosshilde, but the most interesting performance came from Richard Berkeley-Steale as Loge. He is a tenor with a richly coloured middle voice as well as a top, and real musical imagination. He strigs a lot of Wagner in Europe, and should do more here.

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# La bohème

Puccini





# Orthodox but never ordinary

Some of Russia's finest icons are on show in London. Richard Cork is amazed by their power and variety

Mounting a show of Russian icons in a gallery as cool and minimal as the Royal Academy's Sackler Wing could easily be calamitous. If exposed on bare white walls with merciless modern lighting the paintings would look desperately out of place. But if the exhibition organisers tried to reconstruct the icons' original candlelit habitat in cathedrals and monasteries, the result might well look phoney.

A middle course has to be pursued, and the Academy has found it. Photographs are discreetly deployed, hinting at the sumptuous interiors these paintings once occupied. Even so, nothing is allowed to interfere with the pictures. Hung on deep maroon walls, the icons are surrounded by an aura of dark mystery. Each exhibit is spotlighted within the gloom, enabling us to see every stroke of tempera more clearly than the former worshippers would have done.

But the battered panels are warmly illuminated, not raked by a bright glare. Their essential wonder is retained, and demands to be honoured with as much hushed reverence as a congregation would accord them in church.

Such an averted reaction may seem impossible to achieve. How can late 20th-century Westerners respond to images painted, between 1400 and 1660, for a society so unlike our own? We are inculturated with a belief in the primacy of the individual, and our culture draws its energy from the need to challenge tradition.

In Moscow, by contrast, artists were expected to conform. As the Renaissance revolutionised ways of seeing across Europe, Russia resisted change. In 1551 the Council of the Hundred Chapters declared that "the painters will reproduce the ancient models, those of the Greek icon painters, of Andrei Rublev and other famous painters. In nothing will the painters follow their own fantasy."

It sounds like a tyrannical prescription for unbearably repetitive art. Maybe a colossal show of icons would indeed become tedious. But the Academy's, borrowed largely from the great museums of Moscow, is concise. Limited to 42 panel paintings and a few consummate, impeccably preserved miniatures, it is irresistible.

Even visitors who know nothing of the religious subjects depicted here can scarcely remain indifferent to the immediate, sensuous impact of the colours. Icon painters may have been expected to adopt an obedient attitude to exemplars from the past. But in terms of their palette, they were as uninhibited as the builders responsible for transforming

St Basil's into an arresting, multi-hued spectacle.

The unknown artist who painted *The Nativity*, for a chapel in the Kremlin's Cathedral of the Annunciation, did not hesitate to surround the reclining Virgin with an inflammatory band of scarlet. Intended to represent her bed, it can be savoured on an abstract level for the boldness of its assault on the retina.

No wonder the Russian avant-garde at the beginning of our century admired the icon tradition. The same vehement scarlet reappears in another *Nativity* hanging on the same wall. The two icons look identical at first. But then we realise how many differences they contain, and how these artists did manage to interpret their allotted subjects with freshness and conviction.

Look at the shepherds who stare at the Christ child. The first *Nativity* presents them as nervous observers, gazing

## 6 Icon painters often display an unexpected freedom

over their shoulders and ready to run away if detected. In the second, though, they bend forward avidly. One shepherd is so eager to peer that his garment has become hitched up round his buttocks. Byzantine rules are flouted here with surprising realism.

And in the cave where Jesus lies, a Disney-like animal opens its mouth with amazement at the infant in the manger. A note of comic exaggeration has been introduced, offering an unexpected contrast to the solemnity of the three nearby angels as they lean forward.

Throughout the survey, painters can be detected adding their own idiosyncratic inventions to the style they have inherited. In *The Ascension*, perspective is largely denied and the figures adhere to a traditional fitness. But a few saints let their feet jut out beyond the lower edge of the mountain. This illusionistic touch adds to the painting's vitality, and the artist may have derived an illicit thrill from wondering if his audacity would be condemned.

Within the bounds laid down by the commissioning authorities, these icon-painters display a remarkable amount of variety. The artist who produced the late 15th-century *Transfiguration* indulged in headlong drama.

Below the pinnacle of Mount Tabor, where the white-robed Christ reveals His shining divinity, saints tumble head-first down the rockface. As they plummet, each hides one eye from the dazzle above. But they make sure their other eyes are still trained on Jesus, whose radiance continues to hold them in its thrall.

Here, then, is an icon painter unafraid of depicting awkwardly straining limbs. But all this harshness disappears in another painting of Boris and Gleb, the first Russian Orthodox saints. The sons of the Grand Prince of Kiev, they were murdered in 1015. But their courageous acceptance of martyrdom elevated them to sainthood as the supernatural defenders of Russia. They appeared miraculously before battles, most notably when Alexander Nevsky led his soldiers to victory over the frozen lake. And in this icon they stand together, with extravagantly elongated bodies, as elegant and poised as in a Modigliani.

But it would be wrong to imagine that this poetic painting rebelled against the prevailing style. The distortions are typical of Moscow painting around 1500, and they also inform some outstanding *Virgin and Child* images. One, of a type known as *Hodegetria*, served a military purpose. It would have been taken into battle, providing a form of protection. Hence, perhaps, the sternness of the Virgin's expression as she holds the child in the crook of her arm. Both mother and son gaze outwards, apparently impervious to one another's presence.

Al that formality disappears in another, wholly enchanting *Virgin and Child*. This time, it belongs to the type called *Umlenie*, translatable as "she who knows mercy". Hungry for intimacy, the Virgin presses her left hand against the boy's shoulder, and leans her cheek against his in an immensely moving display of maternal devotion. He responds just as fervently. His smile contrasts with her frowning sadness, no doubt weighed down by an intimation of the tragedy ahead. But the overwhelming emotion generated by this panel is of barely protective love.

The more these icons are explored, the more demonstrative they become. Far from relying on static figures, the makers of the Deisis tier from the Kornili Kornelski Monastery in Vologda emphasised the urgency of the four figures. Interceding with Christ, their heads bent forward and arms gesticulating, they could not be further removed from decorous passivity.

Ultimately, though, the mood of this exhibition is more



Sacred subjects painted in bold, bright colours: *Saint George and the Dragon* (State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow)

celebratory than anguished. The final icon shows the Virgin and Child enthroned in a circle of light. Worshipped by angels and the righteous in heaven, the holy pair remain grave. But the adoration surrounding them is heartfelt, and the Byzantine song of praise in the icon's title surges up the prevailing emotion: "In You, All Creation Exults."

● The Art of Holy Russia is at the Royal Academy (0171-439 7438) until June 14

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

Andy Warhol was a purveyor of iconic images to the mass market. Hardly surprising, then, to find the faces of those who were famous for more than 15 minutes in this show. On the walls of Coskun & Co, visitors will recognise the sculpted profile of Alexander the Great, Beethoven scowling through a scrawl of notes, the eerie red glare of Lenin and Liz Taylor's classic gaze.

More unusually, some of these prints have never been exhibited in London before. There is a monochrome Madonna (after Munch) of which only three or four other copies exist, and a unique self-portrait of the artist, purple lineaments etched against a gold background. The blank Czech with the platinum wig became an icon in his own right.

Coskun & Co, 56A Walton Street W1 (0171-581 9056) until April 28

"I WANT to carve mountains," Jacob Epstein once exclaimed. He meant that the sculptor should be true to his materials, the stonemason true to his stone. It is this passionate belief in "direct carving" that Carving Mountains celebrates. The exhibits themselves may not be mountainous — some are very small — but each is a beautifully honest monument to the stone carver's ancient art.

Starting with the relief carvings of Epstein, Gill and Gaudier-Brzeska, the exhibition progresses to the free-standing works of Skeaping, Hepworth and Moore, until the pure, abstract geometries of such artists as Ben Nicholson are reached. This is an alluringly tactile collection, but sadly all the pieces are under Perpetex.

Kettle's Yard, Castle Street, Cambridge (01223 352124) until April 26

A QUIRKY vision sprawls across the spaces of the Chisenhale Gallery, an old East End factory. In an ambitious series of vast pencil drawings Paul Noble constructs the imaginary townscape of Nobson Newtown, complete with hospital, chemical plant and seaside palace. At first his work seems little more than a humorous exercise in social planning. But an accompanying booklet gives it a macabre edge.

Chisenhale Gallery, 64 Chisenhale Road, London E3 (0181-981 4518) until March 29

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**PROKOFIEV'S FIFTH SYMPHONY**  
Reviewed by Edward Seckerson

Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony was written in 1944, ten years after the bad boy of Soviet music had returned to the motherland after a long and fruitful exile. Had he been brought to heel? Was this his honest attempt at the great Soviet symphony, a public act of contrition for earlier indiscretions?

On the surface of it, it would seem to embrace old Russian values. In the beginning it is an epic, it portends great events. "I conceived it as a symphony of the grandeur of the human spirit," said the composer, "a song in praise of free and happy mankind."

Free and happy mankind? In the Soviet Union, circa 1944? No, scratch the surface of the Fifth Symphony and its composer is as proud, as defiant, as cynical, as impertinent as ever he was. This is a work coloured by many different experiences — an odyssey, if you like, destination unknown.

Perhaps the most surprising outcome of this survey, numbering some 30 recordings, is the poor showing of Russian conductors — including Mariss Jansons and the Leningrad Philharmonic (on Chandos), a performance generally held in high regard but brought low, in my view, by over-articulate, foursquare phrasing and an almost obsessive awareness of the barlines. Only Gennady Rozhdest-

vensky with the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra, in a BBC Radio Classics recording taken live from the 1971 Proms, truly belongs among the top contenders. Here is that rare thing: a Russian performance more notable for its refinement than its robustness. But something is missing. Partly on account of the recessed recording image, the effect, dramatically speaking, is a little low-key.

Not so Koussevitsky's pioneering account from 1946 — impatient, even rash — or Mravinsky's wild and woolly reading from 1968, if you can put up with his eccentricities and the raw sound. Then there's Walter Weller and the London Symphony Orchestra on Decca, seriously impressive but not many laughs.

Simon Rattle with his City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra on EMI is certainly a front-runner, ever attentive to the infinite subtleties of Prokofiev's scoring and with a great nose for atmosphere. But I do not yet feel him inhabiting the piece as Herbert von Karajan (and the luminous Berlin Philharmonic, on DG) and Michael Tilson Thomas (and the LSO), do.

With Karajan one is more conscious of Prokofiev embracing tradition; with Tilson Thomas (Sony Classical SMK 48239 £9.99), he is turning somersaults with it. So Tilson Thomas, behaving badly, emerges as a clear first choice. Remember, Prokofiev did not leave his rebellious nature in exile.

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LAW

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Value of working for free

The Pro Bono Group is on a recruitment drive, says Frances Gibb

Call it a stirring of the profession's conscience or a cynical ploy to improve a poor public image. Either way, solicitors are doing what may seem unthinkable: they are working free of charge. In truth, solicitors have always done work unpaid — or work pro bono publico, as it is called. But now it is being formalised, given a framework both nationally and within law firms themselves.

Next month the Solicitors Pro Bono Group, set up in November 1996 to co-ordinate pro bono work within the profession, launches a national membership drive with the backing of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill. The idea is to persuade every one of 10,000 law firms in England and Wales to sign up, so that there is a countrywide network and not just patchwork provision.

Peta Sweet, the group's director, says: "What we are trying to do is to change the culture. We're saying: pro bono work is of value to you as lawyers, to the community you serve — it is not just about giving something for free."

Inevitably, tensions exist. High street law firms, many struggling to meet overheads, have always put in many hours of unpaid work. Why should they do more, some ask. Others also argue that it lets the Government off the hook, enabling it to withdraw legal aid with a clear conscience. Some City law firms have also done their bit: many, for example, send their lawyers to law centres; serve on the panel that acts for deathrow prisoners in cases before the Privy Council; or give free advice to charitable groups. Yet others need persuading: the commitment requires a more positive effort because it does not link naturally with their clientele.



Marta Inskip complained to the district auditor about misused assets

There is also the question of publicity: good PR can persuade solicitors of the benefits of pro bono but that is not why they should be doing it. Some solicitors are cynical about those they claim have jumped on the pro bono bandwagon. But altruism alone may not draw large numbers; solicitors have also to be persuaded of the benefits.

The debate is aired in a timely new College of Law television training programme, which will be used as part of solicitors' (now compulsory) continuing education. Nigel Savage, the chief executive of the College of Law, is keen that it should become an automatic part of training. "Firms can derive a number of substantial benefits from pro bono work, not simply public profile. In larger firms, it can also provide opportunities for younger lawyers to develop their advocacy skills in representing clients in tribunals."

Younger solicitors, in particular, want to know what pro bono work a firm does. "Some parts of the profession have become divorced from their client base," says Sweet. "They have become specialised. But solicitors daily drafting commercial franchise agreements are now asking after five years — what am I doing?" She says there is a move away from the Eighties ethos back to what law is about — helping people. The culture of firms can also gain. Andrew Phillips, of Bates Wells & Braithwaite and founder of the Pro Bono Group, says pro bono work can bring "a more liberal feel about the place which leads to a much greater enjoyment and sense of cohesion, allows a wider type of personality and character to thrive. And that makes the firm better in its mainstream work, for which it is getting paid."

There are concrete signs that firms are paying pro bono

more than lip service. Lovell White Durrant has appointed Yasmin Waljee as its first full-time pro bono officer. She fields up to 15 inquiries a week — from individuals, law centres and advice bureaux — and sorts out legal advice. It may mean representation at a tribunal, or a team of lawyers for complex commercial transactions. But high street law firms can also do their bit: McGrath & Co in Birmingham is a legal aid practice but does much work free where it is not covered by legal aid. It ranges from a 24-hour advice line for travellers to a help pack for housing claims.

Rosamund Smith, a solicitor at Bates Wells, helped two women in a long-running battle over the accounts of Avon County Council and Bath City Council. Marta Inskip, 73, and Stella Pierce, 64, launched a complaint to the district auditor, arguing that the councils had misused



Above: Yasmin Waljee, pro bono officer  
Below: Peta Sweet, group director



Cases haunted by the spectre of failure

A couple who claim that their home in Derbyshire is haunted are suing the previous owner for not telling them about its alleged paranormal history. Andrew and Josie Smith, who paid £41,000 for a cottage in Upper Mayfield, say that only after moving in did they become aware of an "evil presence", which was manifested by sudden drops in temperature, objects moving of their own accord and a sense of being touched in the night. They believe that the ghost of a milkmaid, who had died while locked in the cellar, creates "a living hell" for mortals who live there.

The Smiths' legal complaint is that the property had a bad reputation locally, about which they should have been told. The vendor, Susan Melbourne, is resisting the claim. She is suing the Smiths for £3,000 still owing on the purchase price. She says that she grew up in the cottage and "nothing strange happened to me at all".

In 1991, the Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, decided a similar case in favour of a purchaser of property who was unhappy about sharing it with ghosts. Jeffrey M. Stambovsky discovered, to his horror, that the house he had contracted to buy had a reputation for being possessed by poltergeists. The defendant seller, Helen Ackley, had "seen" the ghosts on numerous occasions over the previous nine years.

She had reported such events to the *Reader's Digest* and to the local newspaper, and the publicity had damaged the value of the property.

On behalf of three of the five judges, Justice Rubin recognised the practical problem the purchaser faced in proving the existence of paranormal phenomena. Citing the title song to the film *Ghostbusters*, he asked: "Who you gonna call?" He considered that whether the source of the apparitions seen by the vendor, Mrs Ackley, was physical or psychological, she was, in law, prevented from denying their existence because of her own promotional efforts. Therefore, said Justice Rubin, "as a matter of law, the house is haunted".

The judge concluded that he was "moved by the spirit of equity" to allow Mr Stambovsky to rescind the contract and recover his down payment because of the vendor's failure to disclose her belief that the house was haunted. Furthermore, Mrs Ackley had not delivered "vacant possession", as required by the contract of sale, because of the presence of the ghosts.

The two dissenting judges applied normal, rather than paranormal, principles of law. Judge Smith suggested that "the existence of a

pottergeist is no more binding upon the defendants than it is upon this court". As he pointed out, if the doctrine of caveat emptor were to be discarded, "it should be for a reason more substantive than a pottergeist".

An English county court hearing Andrew and Josie Smith's case is very likely to follow the minority rather than the majority decision in *Stambovsky v Ackley*. Though litigants and lawyers are often shocked by what happens in court, it is rarely the consequence of supernatural phenomena. Things that go bump in the night tend to make little noise in the courtroom.

In 1944, the Court of Criminal Appeal dismissed an conviction at the Old Bailey for offences under the Witchcraft Act 1735 by pretending to call up the spirits of deceased persons. Mrs Duncan, in association with her spirit guide "Albert", was a professional spiritualist medium. In the Court of Appeal, the Lord Chief Justice, Viscount Caldecote, was unimpressed by her counsel's argument that the trial judge had erred by refusing to allow her to demonstrate her powers to the jury.

The Lord Chief Justice thought that such a demonstration would pose "obvious difficulties". Suppose, he wondered, that "ectoplasm was alleged to emanate from the medium. Would the jury be allowed to handle it or to do anything to verify the appearance?" A similar approach would be taken today on a prosecution under the Fraudulent Mediums Act 1951.

Ghosts may themselves be respectful of the legal process. I am indebted to my friend Cyril Glasser, of the solicitors Sheridans, and an expert in laws spiritual as well as temporal, for drawing to my attention a report in this newspaper some years ago of an investigation into a violent death in India. At a seance, the victim's spirit was asked whether she had been murdered or had committed suicide. She answered: "I shan't tell." Asked why, the spirit replied: "Don't you know the matter is sub judice?"

Counsel for Andrew and Josie Smith in the county court in Derbyshire will, no doubt, echo the ghost in *Hamlet* by pleading: "Pity me not, but lend thy serious hearing to what I shall unfold." Counsel may even cite the speech of Lord Atkin in a 1940 judgment that when "ghosts of the past stand in the path of justice clanking their medieval chains, the proper course for the judge is to pass through them undeterred". But rational observers must conclude that the Smiths don't have a ghost of a chance of winning their case.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL  
DAVID  
PANNICK QC

£20,000 award for a company victim

MRS A, a foreign national, wanted to bring a claim for constructive dismissal and racial discrimination after she was forced to leave her part-time job with a major company.

She maintained that she suffered years of ridicule and unfair treatment at the hands of colleagues and management, which resulted in severe depression. She was unable to work again.

A firm of solicitors started some work for her, but quickly overreached the £2,000 estimate for going to an industrial

tribunal. Her former employer was represented by a City law firm.

She was referred by Acton Law Shop to Clifford Chance, the biggest firm in the country, which did her case pro bono.

The senior litigation lawyer who handled her case said: "When the case arrived, the client's position was difficult... we faced a strike-out application and survived this on condition that the claim document needed tidying up."

The work involved three substantial preliminary hearings and the case was

listed for a two-week hearing. Shortly beforehand, it was settled and Mrs A received some £20,000.

In all, the firm spent almost 100 hours of senior lawyer time and 50 hours of trainee/paralegal time. The total cost of the case had gone to trial, could have cost £60,000.

She said: "It was a very good service. Legal aid is not available for tribunals and it would have been impossible for me to afford to bring the case out of my own money."

Society climber?

THE practice of giving Law Society Presidents automatic knighthoods ended several years ago. Now, perhaps, the post may come to be seen as a good way for solicitors to improve their chances of becoming judges.

Last week Charles Eilly, a former Law Society President — once famously embroiled in a furious row with the Legal Aid Board after he

described it as "a downcast institution, riven by internal dissension" — was made a circuit judge.

That attack, made in 1994 when Mr Eilly was Law Society vice-president, was described by Steve Orchard, the Legal Aid Board's chief executive, as "disgraceful" and "gratuitously offensive". But the dispute, rightly, had no effect on his rise up the judicial

ranks: a few months later he was made a Recorder.

Political adviser LORD NOLAN gave up his usual occupation of celebrating St Patrick's Day by checking on the lambing at his home last week. Instead, he gave the tenth annual Essex law lecture at the University of Essex, where he is Chancellor.

He spoke — not surprisingly — on corruption, and said his chairmanship of the Committee on Standards in Public Life had not made him cynical. He went further, urging students to consider politics because it was an "honourable profession". If they wanted to make a difference in the world, a political career was what they should consider.

DIY cash MORE HELP for litigants in person: the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has approved a three-year grant, starting with £84,500 in the first year, for the Citizens Advice Bureau at the Royal Courts of Justice. The money will pay for two "gateway soli-

citors" and back-up staff to provide legal help to people who want to represent themselves. The new grants follow two-year funding agreed by the previous Lord Chancellor.

● The Law Society of Scotland has opened a "dial a law" service, offering legal information to the public. Callers will hear recorded information from Austin Lafferty, a lawyer and broadcaster, on more than 40 topics from ball to buying a property. The idea, intended to appeal to people who find contacting a solicitor daunting, is based on a similar project in Victoria, Australia.

Ad or substract NOW THAT the Government has announced its plans to reform legal aid, the Law Society faces a delicate decision. Should it run a national advertising campaign opposing the plans?

The society has achieved some dilution of the reforms, but it still has concerns. Trouble is, the ads are already designed and one source describes them as "very hard-hitting". Will the society just annoy the Government by using them?

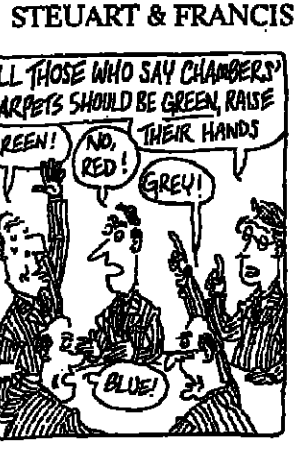
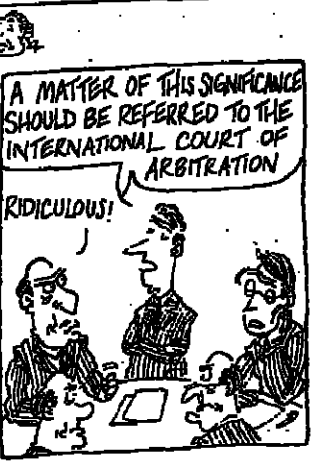
SCRIVENOR



Path stays public

Ramblers win case

IN ANOTHER High Court ruling, the Ramblers Association won a case which should deter developers from building on public paths. A developer erected a garage illegally then tried to knock down half before the public inquiry. John Trevelyan, director of the RA, said: "Developers will have to be more careful when developing sites crossed by public paths."



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<b>CONSTRUCTION</b> Looking to build on past success? If you are a talented construction lawyer (primarily contentious with an industry/engineering qualification) of the 2-4 years age level then you should consider joining this thriving construction department in a friendly but focused Central London practice. Acting for many of the big names, career progression will be according to merit, and rewards will be excellent.	<b>£35 - £50,000</b>	<b>INSOLVENCY</b> A highly regarded, long established City firm offers an excellent opportunity to join its insolvency department. A high calibre insolvency specialist is sought to take over a full caseload (non-contentious bias) from a senior practitioner. This exceptional position will suit an ambitious 'City' assistant of 2 years' age or an existing partner.	<b>£40 - £120,000</b>
<b>CORPORATE FINANCE</b> A corporate department which is at the heart of this very successful firm — and which continues to go from strength to strength. The emphasis is on high profile cross border work and the team consists of energetic solicitors who both work and play hard. If you are 5+ yrs, really value your career and would like to work in a firm which would really value you, call us now!	<b>to £100,000</b>	<b>CORPORATE</b> The market leading companies and institutions that this dynamic firm acts for believes their c20 partner size. Their talented corporate team now requires an equally dedicated lawyer with 1-3 years relevant age to join their department where ability and commitment will be rewarded from the outset.	<b>to £46,000</b>
<b>CORPORATE TAX</b> Distinctly different, this uniquely successful, multi-ethnic, medium-sized City firm seeks a strong individual (3-4 years' age) with corporate tax experience, to join its highly recommended and multi-partnered team, acting for household names — this is an opportunity to join the rising star of firms in London, and shouldn't be missed!	<b>£30 - £55,000</b>	<b>PROPERTY LITIGATION</b> This international law firm seeks a 3-5 years qualified property litigator for its specialist London department, dealing with all forms of property dispute resolution for developers, retailers and institutional clients. If you are keen to work in a professional environment with excellent support, and career prospects are of major importance to you this opportunity should not be missed.	<b>NQ - £44,000</b>
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b> Invigorated by the successful development of their Employment unit, this medium-sized Central London firm seeks to capitalise upon its enhanced reputation in this field by appointing a senior employment law specialist. This partnership role provides the perfect environment for a talented practice developer.	<b>£65 - £125,000</b>	To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Penny Temdrop, Anita Gohil or Sarah King on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends 01252 715302), or write to us, in complete confidence, at 44/45 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JL, Fax: 0171 404 8817.	

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If you would like to discuss this opportunity further please contact our retained consultant, June Mesrie, on 0171 405 6062 (0181 442 0841 evenings/weekends) or write to her at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax 0171 831 6394. QD In-House Legal are acting on an exclusive basis and all direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.



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For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultants, Lizzie Orange or Lisa Owens, on 0171 523 3822 (0181 740 4108 evenings/weekends) or write to them at ZMB Industry, 37 Stn Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3823. E-mail lizzie@zmb.co.uk ZMB Industry, a Zarak Group Company.



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- Persuasive and perceptive individual, with a high degree of maturity and sensitivity, adept at developing successful relationships with colleagues and external advisors.
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Alternatively send by fax on 0171-312 3380 or by e-mail to kfs-london@kornferry.com Internet Home Page: <http://www.kfselection.com>

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You will be able to demonstrate initiative, resolve legal issues with practical solutions, possess the ability to assess risks and work closely with colleagues. As you will be part of the commercial team this position requires an enthusiastic but flexible and down-to-earth attitude.

If you are interested in this position please write with your details enclosing full CV to: J M Crowley, legal Department Manager, Credit Lyonnais Rouse Limited, Broadwalk House, 5 Appold Street, London, EC2A 2DA, Fax: 0171 214 6469. Alternatively if you would like to find out more about the position please telephone J M Crowley on 0171 214 6433 or C A Mason on 0171 214 6462.

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#### Minor details

It's remarkable how small details can be decisive if they're regarded as significant.

A candidate with an excellent background in corporate work was interviewed by a large City firm. He performed sufficiently well to be called back for a second interview, where he was grilled for an hour on his transactional experience. Again, he did well, giving the right technical answers. The interviewers were impressed. There was something about his manner, however - a slight softness, a hint of indecisiveness - which worried the interviewers. Nothing so negative that they would reject him, but enough to raise questions. When he left, they watched through the window as he walked away and what they saw tipped the balance against him. He seemed casually down the street as if unsure where he was going. He didn't actually look, but there was nothing businesslike about his manner. In spite of his technical excellence, no offer was made.

It's a mistake to regard an interview as if it's an exam, where you're judged only by your performance in the examination itself. Everything you do can be seen. How you apply, how you deal with secretaries and receptionists, what you do afterwards. Unfortunately, you can never know what aspects they'll be watching, and what behaviour they'll regard as significant.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS DIRECTORY Our legal directory is available from Blooms, (01403 - 710 971)

### INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Morwenna Lewis, Aileen Shepherd, Fiona Boxall

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**Legal Adviser: North Surrey** Solicitor with 2 years' ppe for new position handling mixed property/planning caseload with small friendly in-house team. Opportunity to become involved in environmental law matters too.

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Case of win. no wa

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Contingency fees are being touted as justice for all. But David McIntosh raises a cautionary note

# A case of no win, no fee, no way?

Lawyers who do commercial litigation will soon have to take note of what may prove to be the disadvantage of US-style contingency fees. It will soon be open to all solicitors to offer conditional fee arrangements — "no win, no fee" — in any case involving a claim over money or damages, and charge up to 100 per cent of normal fees, depending on the risk taken.

No doubt many business clients will wish to explore the advantages of "no win, no fee" retainers. Even if they risk paying the defendants' costs if their claim fails — and insurers are devising schemes to cover this — the financial attraction of not having to pay their own lawyer as the case proceeds, or not at all if it is bound to appeal.

The benefits to litigants are likely to outweigh the downside of having to pay solicitors "extra" if they win. But what about solicitors? Will they be happy with that successful outcome? At first glance, yes, but on closer look, the answer may be no — if the case has been complicated, long-running and has required the solicitor to invest much time and forward costs to the detriment of his own cashflow. In that case, there would be only one "winner". And how many cases of "wait and see" whether I get paid" could the law firm afford to run the risk of pursuing? What would their bankers think? Little wonder there is much doubt (even if insurance cover for a losers' legal fee materialises) whether conditional fee agreements substantially replace gal aid or is just wishful thinking. In fact, such arrangements are covering themselves in routine personal injury cases, although this is not fully tested. This limited success could be matched for corporate litigants in the legal field, for in-

stance, of routine debt collection and other simple litigation cases. Well-organised law firms with procedures tailor-made for repetitive work will undoubtedly be able to benefit.

But solicitors would be unwise to enter "no win, no fee" deals in complicated, one-off, and potentially drawn-out litigation without protecting themselves against financial outlay liabilities. They also need to be sure that the client will provide them with enough long-term continuance of worthwhile instructions to justify risking non-payment from time to time.

There also needs to be sensible mechanisms for interim-reviewing of the prospects of success. The decision whether or not "no win, no fee cases" should be continued ought not to be left to the client alone when a solicitor co-ventures in the risk-taking.

On balance, there is likely to be an increase in small to medium commercial cases (including professional negligence) once the possible idea of contingency fee agreements in non-personal injury cases is taken up. To some extent — but not as widely as the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, professes — there is some truth in what he stated at the Law Society conference in Cardiff on October 18. He said: "The suggested extension of conditional fees for most civil proceedings would, at last, give middle-income Britain a real opportunity to enforce its rights in the courts. The poor, the rich and the merely 'comfortable' should enjoy equality of access to legal advice and representation... those between the very poor and the very rich are the overwhelming majority of people in the country."

Reservations remain about how willing and how often solicitors will accommodate "no win, no fee" litigation run on behalf of individuals and businesses (who before could not have pursued cases) with its risks and cashflow deprivation. But this gateway to justice for those on middle-class incomes will lead to an increase of cases that business lawyers will need to defend.



A case of contingency fee fear? Paul Newman as the struggling lawyer in *The Verdict*

These new cases will require defending and, though not precisely filling the threatened legal aid hole, will play a part in ensuring that nobody enjoys (or regrets) a reprieve from the "sue everybody" culture of recent years.

But the withdrawal of legal aid heralds the end of "try it on" litigation: dubious cases will still be run by ambitious (not just for their

clients but for themselves) and knowing plaintiffs' lawyers. This will happen when cases can be started inexpensively and run cheaply, but in ways which embarrass and put the defendant to much trouble and expense.

Sometimes, when there is much to be gained and little to lose, claimants will be encouraged to litigate without legal-expenses insurance. Knowing that the plaintiff is not worth pursuing on a costs order or that it might appear oppressive to do so will result in the sort of "costs blackmail" pressures that have too often been a characteristic of some legal aid cases. Then and in the

future some defendants will choose to make settlement offers rather than continue to defend a case they expect to win but in which the expenses of winning will exceed the cost of an earlier settlement.

Believe it. Some solicitors will flourish under the newly heralded "no win, no fee" umbrella (with more than a few hoping it will transmute into full contingency fees) provided they are good at picking winners or settlers. Otherwise they will jeopardise their own future. But whether this approach by solicitors will answer the Lord Chancellor's access to justice prayers is another matter.

● The author is senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper, a City law firm.

# Broken dreams as merger schemes fade

Edward Fennell reports on a trend that may be coming to an end

It is a shame that fly-on-the-wall documentaries are going out of fashion because the discussions and dramas being played out in partners' rooms across the City would be worth recording for posterity.

First, it is likely that Arthur Andersen has at last found a London law firm to give real weight to its idea of creating a top-tier global legal network. Wilde Sapte's partners have agreed in principle to a merger.

By the autumn, the legal landscape will probably have changed fundamentally as Andersen gains good quality banking, finance and insurance skills in English law to plug into its international capability. Wilde Sapte will merge with Garretts (Andersen's present legal outlet) in London and join the likes of Garrigues in Paris, Archibold in Spain, and Dundas & Wilson in Scotland as part of the Andersen Legal international network.

The name Wilde Sapte will remain prominent but by the time that a full merger takes place between all the constituent firms, it is likely to have been replaced by something like Andersen Legal, although this is some years off.

To complete this picture of lofty ambitions, it is useful to reflect on the fate of the Norton Rose M5 Group whose break-up is now scheduled for the summer. The creation of the original group in the early 1990s (when Norton Rose joined the M5 "educational co-op") was an important step towards raising regional law firms' standards. The alliance pioneered a host of mergers and the creation of national firms such as Eversheds, Dibb Lupton Alsop and Hammond Suddards.

Now it is falling apart. And why? Because lawyers are individualists by nature and the member firms have finally decided to pursue their separate interests. The

dreams of many partners will have been disappointed. Quentin Poole, managing partner of Wragge & Co, a member of the group, says: "Norton Rose M5 outlived its usefulness. We decided some years ago that clients did not want a national firm and that we can handle the issues by ourselves."

The most significant message from Norton Rose M5 is that a group of premier firms from the regions came to see no benefit in a mega unit. The whole would be less than the sum of its parts.

Wragge's has grown from 372 people to 600 in four years and believes in the benefits of being focused on just one office. Mr Poole puts it forcibly: "Following the model of the accountants is inappropriate for lawyers."

So will the Wilde Sapte-Andersen merger work? In ten years' time will we see Andersen Legal at the top of the tree? Any speculation must take account of what has happened to Andersen's management consultancy wing, Andersen Consulting. For some years, relations with its parent have been troubled. One leading partner at Andersen Consulting hisses with irritation at any hint of identification with the accountants.

So it may be a challenge to Arthur Andersen top brass to stop the same thing happening to Andersen Legal once the honeymoon period ends.

Steven Blakeley, Wilde Sapte's managing partner, sees the merger as an opportunity to marry the Anderson brand with his firm's expertise in English banking law. But blending the French, Spanish and UK firms with one Arthur Andersen ethos will be tough.

It then needs to be followed up by maintaining long-term relationships between lawyers and accountants. If the plan works, it will open a fresh chapter in the development of legal services. It really does deserve a film crew.



Blakeley: opportunity

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**CAPITAL MARKETS**  
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- Manage the administration for key schemes including Pensions, Private Health and Share Options

To perform and develop this role further you will be professionally qualified with a legal bias to your work to date. The decentralised nature of the structure demands that you have well-developed interpersonal skills with excellent communication and presentation capabilities. Advising on contractual matters will not only require an attention to detail but will demand a commercial mind as well as a strong personal presence and immediate credibility.

Interested candidates should write with full CV, quoting current rewards package to Karen Wilson, Consumer Goods & Services Practice, Hoggett Bowers, 28 Essex Street, London WC2R 3AX, Tel: 0171 970 9600, Fax: 0171 936 3974, quoting ref: LKW/16100/TT.

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**Capital Markets**  
Eminent European investment house is looking to recruit a senior fluent Italian-speaking lawyer to join its dynamic transaction-management team in London. Applicants should have a minimum of 2 years' capital-markets experience. Ref: 39742 Marianne Kien

### Derivatives Documentation

Leading US investment house seeks a negotiator (not necessarily qualified) ideally with 3 years' experience in a law firm or bank to join its derivatives documentation team. Experience in drafting and reviewing ISDA documentation is a must. Ref: 39925 Marianne Kien

**Banking Lawyer**  
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Top international City firm seeks a 2-4 year banking lawyer to join its long established China Group, working out of Hong Kong and Shanghai. Apply if you are interested in the growth of financial opportunities in the region, particularly if you have good language skills in Mandarin or Cantonese. (Ref. 20128)

**CORPORATE FINANCE** TO £60,000

The corporate finance department at this rapidly expanding City firm seeks a senior assistant with 3-5 years' ppe to work in the M&A field. Experienced in Yellow Book or venture capital, you will need to be ambitious and commercially aware, with enthusiasm for practice development. (Ref. 21452)

**PROJECTS** TO £55,000

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For further information on private practice vacancies please contact Yvonne Smyth or Andy Golding on 0171 523 3838 (01923 469804 evenings/weekends). Fax 0171 523 3839. E-mail yvonne@zmb.co.uk. Alternatively please write to ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. ZMB, a Zarak Group Company.

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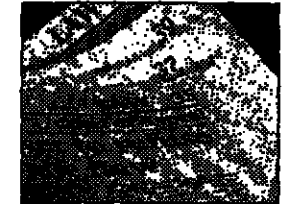
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This part time position is for a lawyer to work 2-3 days per week on the company's UK business.

Working closely with the UK commercial team, your work will include marketing, advertising and sponsorship law, intellectual property, employment law, EC law and drafting, reviewing and negotiating a wide range of commercial contracts.

Ideally, you will have at least 2 years' ppe gained in-house or in private practice.

The ability to deal with all levels of management across the company is essential and, due to the part-time nature of the role, some flexibility is required.


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- University degree in English, Scottish or Irish law.

Professional experience:

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Global growth continues apace with emerging and developing markets showing aggressive growth. Our legal function is a key part of the senior management team ensuring delivery in this aggressive and competitive environment.

Strategic succession planning in our legal department means that we are now seeking a lawyer who


can continue the culture of quality, innovation and excellence. The post demands at least 4-7 years' ppe, preferably in industry, although very commercially-oriented lawyers currently in private practice will be considered. Ideally you will have a broad company/commercial background with specific knowledge and expertise in European competition law, sale of goods and trademark law. Conversational and written German would be a distinct advantage, but is not essential. A mature, business-driven approach is important as in the long-term there is the opportunity to progress elsewhere within the Group. Reporting to a board member and ultimately leading the legal function, you will provide commercial advice to management and be

responsible for maintaining the integrity of this world-famous brand. If autonomy and the opportunity to work in a highly business-oriented environment with one of the most familiar names in its field is your goal, please contact our retained consultants Anthony Gregg or David Bennett at In-House Legal, Grosvenor House, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5RS. Tel: 0121 643 1895. Fax: 0121 633 0862. E-mail: [tony.gregg@hwgroup.com](mailto:tony.gregg@hwgroup.com)



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Monaco

As a result of its rapid expansion, Single Buoy Moorings, a world leader in the design, construction, installation, leasing and operation of floating plants for the offshore oil and gas industry, offers a superb career opportunity in a pleasant and dynamic environment for a young and energetic

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The main responsibilities are three-fold:-

- The drafting and negotiation of contracts for the sale or time charter of a prestigious line of products and services.
- The setting-up and further administration of the Group's joint ventures as company secretary.
- Support to Management, on legal, contractual, insurance and litigation matters.

Candidates should have a degree from a good law school, be professionally qualified, and have ideally five years' experience in an international law firm or company in the oil and gas or engineering industries.

For the successful individual, a first-class remuneration package is offered, as well as relocation assistance. The position is based in Monaco. Frequent travel worldwide will be required.

Please fax and mail a detailed c.v. and photograph to the Head of Personnel at the following address:-

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24, Ave. de Fontvieille, P.O. Box 199, MC 98007 Monaco Cedex  
Telefax +377-92053222

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#### Jersey

Jersey provides an ideal environment for keen young lawyers to develop rewarding careers with an international perspective. The Island enjoys one of the highest standards of living in Europe, a reputation for being the offshore centre of first choice, and a low tax regime.

Phillip Stiel & Co is an established and well respected law firm which is now looking to recruit qualified Lawyers preferably with post qualification experience. The financial rewards are extremely attractive, the work demanding and varied and the opportunity for early and significant advancement very good.

For more information please telephone Andrew Barone at Meldrum Barone Recruitment on 01534 617999 or by Fax 01534 618999.

Meldrum Barone Recruitment, Charles House, Charles Street, St Helier, Jersey.

### COMMERCIAL PUPILLAGE

Armstrong World Industries Inc. is a US multi-national with turnover in excess of \$2 billion. Its in-house European legal function is based in Uxbridge.

The European Legal Counsel, now seeks a Commercial Pupil, to commence mid/late April. The ideal candidate MUST be FC literate, and display commercial acumen, tact, an eclectic mind, a sense of humour and be flexible and able when faced with tight deadlines. A second degree and a European language is preferable.

The workload is extremely varied and includes issues of competition, contract, environmental, employment and matters of a general commercial character in jurisdictions across Europe.

Applications should be made in writing to Mark Wille-Jones, European Legal Counsel, Armstrong World Industries Ltd, Armstrong House, 38 Market Square, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1NG. Fax 01895 256669.

### LEGAL EXECUTIVES

English to Mother Tongue standard, Fluent French

Our client is a major French Sports company expanding in the UK. They have two positions available for young legal executives, one with property law and one with social law, 6 months to a year training provided in France. Excellent prospects. Salary negotiable. Please call Coline on:

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Applicants are invited from solicitors, barristers, or from persons who have successfully completed a legal practice course or bar finals, for the above position. A training contract may be offered to a successful applicant who wishes to qualify as a solicitor.

This challenging and interesting post will interest anyone who wishes to pursue a career in the magistrature, who enjoys working under pressure in court and who is able to demonstrate patience, tact and diplomacy when dealing with court users.

The position is offered on a two year fixed term contract. For further details and an application form, please contact Ms. Dawn McElhinney at Enfield Magistrates' Court, Leitchway Lane, Tottenham, London, N17 6ET (Telephone 0181 838-0411 ext.2311).

Applicants must be submitted by 9th April 1998.

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### PARALEGAL

Single customer law practice sought for product work by international commercial litigation specialist based at London Heathrow Airport.

The successful applicant must be competent in English, have first class GCSE, be prepared to commit to a minimum period of six months.

Please Reply to Ref No 1240

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### Business Affairs Executive

Channel 4 Business Affairs is a busy department negotiating the terms of agreements with all the Channel's programme suppliers, matching the needs of the Channel's Commissioning Editors with the aspirations of independent producers all within the tight time frame required by TV production.

We are looking for an experienced television lawyer to work closely with Channel 4's Head of Entertainment. You will take responsibility for the negotiation of agreements with independent producers of a wide range of comedy and entertainment programmes such as Father Ted, Rory Bremner and Harry Hill.


Dealing with some of Channel 4's most innovative and demanding suppliers, you will need to be able to assess the value of different rights and the commercial needs of the Channel. You will need to think ahead, provide advice and problem solve across a range of issues. A team player, but able to take the initiative, you will also have to prioritise under pressure.

You will have considerable experience of dealing with agents, a sound understanding of the production process and be familiar with the issues involved in the negotiation of talent agreements generally.

The role is a commercial one and the ability to act quickly and effectively and to identify and address the key issues is important.

If this describes you, please send your CV with a letter detailing your salary expectations and current notice requirements to: Personnel Department, Channel 4 Television, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2TX. Please quote reference: ABR/04/T.

Closing date for applications: Tuesday 7th April 1998.



Channel 4 is an equal opportunities employer and applications from people from an ethnic minority background are particularly welcomed

CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION





### Outstanding positions for UK lawyers to work in a multi-national practice with a global reputation for excellence

#### Brown & Wood is no ordinary law firm.

Brown & Wood, with over 300 lawyers, concentrates on global financial transactions. The firm is widely recognised as being a world leader in the provision of highly innovative advice and for pioneering cutting-edge financing techniques.

With offices in the world's capital markets, the firm has a truly international perspective. London is a significant, established office in the firm's global network and has already successfully integrated UK lawyers.

The firm is now poised to significantly expand its UK law capability, primarily in the areas of securitisation/structured finance and investment funds.

#### Far from ordinary, the opportunities on offer are exceptional:

- A continuous flow of high quality work with an international dimension
- A smaller and more friendly work environment which, with no individual billing targets, encourages a genuine team spirit
- An excellent long-term career
- The opportunity to work in any of the firm's global network of offices
- Significant input into the London office's future development at this early stage in the planned major strategic expansion
- Significant financial rewards

\* Representative office

#### SECURITISATION/STRUCTURED FINANCE

Partners - London  
Assistants - London 3-6 years / New York 0-4 years / San Francisco 0-4 years

Brown & Wood was ranked number one in the US in 1997 and is recognised as being the pioneer in the development of mortgage-backed securities. The firm has retained and strengthened this expertise and is actively involved in the growing market for international securitisation programmes.

As part of its clearly defined strategy, the firm seeks to strengthen its UK capability by recruiting a small number of high calibre solicitors. At partner level relevant experience is essential and this will most probably have been gained with one of the recognised London law firms.

At assistant level, the firm seeks bright lawyers to join the teams in London, New York and San Francisco. Successful candidates will be working either in a recognised law firm or financial institution. Consideration will be given to lawyers with general finance experience interested in specialising in the above areas. Those working in the US will be sponsored through either the New York or California Bar exams.

#### INVESTMENT FUNDS

Partners - London  
Assistants - London 3-6 years

Brown & Wood has a major international practice in the area of investment companies and related pooled investment entities and is well known for having been at the forefront of legal developments in this area. In 1997 the firm was ranked as one of the leading US law firms for open-end mutual funds in terms of assets under management. The firm continues to build upon this reputation and the expertise gained in establishing over one hundred US and offshore mutual funds throughout the world.

The firm already handles international funds work from the London office and now seeks to recruit a small number of high calibre UK qualified solicitors, at both partner and assistant level, to build and develop the firm's UK investment funds practice.

Applications are invited from partners and assistants with UK funds experience gained either with a recognised law firm or with an asset management company. At partner level, the ability to develop and retain quality business will be essential.

#### £New York rates

For a confidential discussion contact our exclusively retained consultants, Nick Root (Partners) or Nick McLoughlin (Assistants) at Taylor Root, 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DD.

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#### SINGAPORE

Established in 1996, significant progress has been made by our resident partners, Martin Green and Iain Young. We advise on non-contentious and offshore work - principally on the financing, sale and purchase of ships and project finance. An admiralty lawyer with at least 4 years' experience is required - you need not have qualified as a solicitor, or you may already be a Partner - with a willingness to undertake some "dry" work and with proven practice development ability.

#### PIRAEUS

Our office in Greece handles non-contentious work for the shipping industry as well as general banking and corporate transactions, in association with a local firm, Elias Sp. Paraskevas. Nigel Bowen-Morris, our resident partner, has extensive experience of Greece, The Balkans and Eastern Europe and wishes to hire a litigator whose background is predominantly "dry". Around 4 years' experience is needed as is the ability to develop the practice further.

#### LONDON WET

Another Admiralty partner or marine manager is sought to join our Marine Investigations Group which handles traditional casualty work including major P&I cases, collision and salvage and currently comprises 2 partners, (Robin Slade and Simon Tatham) 1 senior associate and 5 assistants. You will already be a partner/marine manager with well established contacts.

#### LONDON DRY

Shipping litigation is handled by our specialist group comprising some 20 lawyers who act on behalf of brand names within the shipping community across the globe. We could accommodate another partner or team of partners, particularly lawyers whose clients generate business in the marine insurance and/or international trade sectors.

#### HONG KONG

Established in 1979, the office is a highly successful full-service practice which also runs our office in Guangzhou. Peter Mills heads the Admiralty division and needs another member for the team. Although 3 years' experience is required you need not be a qualified lawyer - experience at sea or in a shore-based shipping occupation would be acceptable.

Excellent remuneration packages are available and will depend upon individual circumstances. If you are interested in any of the above openings please send your personal and career details to Denis Reed, One, St Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8SH or if you would prefer an informal confidential discussion, please telephone Mark Russell, the Head of our Shipping Department on 0171 329 4422, or 01582 765896 (home) or any of the above partners.

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## NORTEL NORTHERN TELECOM

### European Role Commercial Lawyer

Nortel is one of the world's largest manufacturers and suppliers of telecommunications equipment and networks. In 1997 the company had sales in Europe of \$US3.5 billion operating both independently and through its joint ventures. The group employs 73,000 people worldwide and approximately 16,000 people across Europe in research and development, manufacturing and sales.

The European Law Department is responsible for the legal affairs of Nortel's business throughout Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the former Soviet Union states. Continued growth has now led to an exciting opportunity for an additional commercial lawyer to join this Department. The European team of lawyers is currently based in Paris, Maidenhead and North London. This position will be to join the legal team based in Maidenhead, Berkshire.

You will be responsible for advising Nortel's public carrier accounts division on all legal aspects of doing business in the highly competitive European telecoms market. You will handle a wide variety of commercial matters including customer contracts, licensing, distribution, product development and collaborative projects. You will also be responsible for assisting the current lawyers in providing advice to the other product-lines giving you exposure to a broad range of legal and business issues.

The successful candidate will be between 1 and 3 years qualified with commercial experience, gained either in-house, ideally from a related sector, or from a leading law firm. You should have a flexible approach and the ability to deal with an unpredictable workload. Whilst technical expertise is essential, a sense of humour and entrepreneurial flair are also important qualities. The work has a high international content, hence competency in a European foreign language would be an advantage.

To apply, please fax or send a typed CV quoting ENAM00603 to our Resourcing Centre on 0181 945 3018 at Nortel Plc, Maidenhead Office Park, Westcott Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3QH. When sending your CV quote the reference number on both the outside of the envelope and your CV.

Alternatively, for a confidential discussion, please contact our advising agents, Rachael North or Navien Tuff at Laurence Simons International on 0171 831 3270.

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**NON-CONTENTIOUS IT** To £55,000  
The leading West End firm at the place to be an IT lawyer, as the way it treats its staff is as progressive as the exciting IT work it is famed for. Arguably the perfect move for a non-contentious IT lawyer with 2+ years' experience and ideally some outsourcing and digital experience. New media experience would help too. Ref: T23288

**CORPORATE/COMMERCIAL** Brighton To £40,000  
This is a firm which can offer a City-quality workload in a town which can offer a very non-City standard of living. This leading south coast firm wants 1-3 years qualified City lawyers because of the type of corporate/commercial work it attracts, but they must be able to enjoy life outside the office. Ref: T38223

**INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES** To £80,000  
City firm offering top quality international securities work at US rates - that's the attractive proposition for a US lawyer with 3 years' experience who wants to play a major role in helping the top 10 practice take its place with the best in the world. Success brings its reward at this multi-national partnership. Ref: T27017

**LITIGATION** To £Partnership  
You need to have a weighty reputation, if not a weighty following, to join the partnership of one of the US's biggest and best firms. Its London office is a serious player in the market, a reflection of both its clients and the quality of lawyers it can attract with quite phenomenal partnership draws. Ref: T40215

**CORPORATE TAX** To £77,000  
If you are a well-trained corporate tax specialist with 2-6 years' experience who wants to move to a firm which has the work to challenge the best minds and the pay to put all City firms to shame, then look no further than the London office of this top 10 US firm. Its market-leading tax practice is the perfect answer. Ref: T43825

**CAPITAL MARKETS** To £160,000  
The London office of this top US firm has regularly made headlines with the pay structure in place for lawyers at all levels. This is your chance to join the firm, if you are a capital markets assistant at any level, keen to stretch yourself on novel cross-border financing structures and major debt work. Ref: T16571

**CORPORATE INFORMATION** To £Excellent  
Time to take a step back and enjoy life away from the timesheet without taking a big pay cut too. This leading City firm needs a transactional lawyer with 5+ years' experience and good communication skills to take on a part-time role as its corporate information officer. Ideal perhaps for lawyers with newly-borns. Ref: T41952

**PROPERTY READING** To £Partnership  
Take on a senior role in the property department of this top firm and you will really have made it, as it has one of the best practices in the country. As part of its Reading team, you will need to show real leadership skills and probably a following too. Also room for ambitious assistants. Ref: T32461

**CORPORATE INSOLVENCY** To £70,000  
You will be working alongside some of the biggest names in corporate insolvency at the high-profile London office of this top New York firm, meaning the experience you gain here will set you up for life. 0-36 months' relevant experience is ideal, but training will be given to a bright corporate or M&A lawyer. Ref: T40828

**PROPERTY** To £65,000  
Early partnership is the plan for commercial property lawyers with 0-4 years' experience who prove themselves at this headline-making 1997 start-up, which is growing exceptionally quickly in line with its success. As part of your training, you will play a major role in developing the practice further. Ref: T37855

**EMPLOYMENT** To £57,000  
If low-profile and unchallenging work for clients nobody has heard of is what you want, then the opening for an employment lawyer with 2-5 years' experience at this top 20 City firm is definitely not for you. An exciting opportunity to get to grips with a super contentious and non-contentious workload. Also needs seniors. Ref: T47827

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Nick Peacock, Seamus Hoar or Stephen Rodway (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-228 0476 or 0171-633 3727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Legal, Confidential fac: 0171-831 6393

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## NON-CONTENTIOUS CONSTRUCTION LAWYER FOR GLOBAL LEADER

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### KVAERNER

### Kvaerner Construction Group

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The role involves advising a range of commercial personnel within the 'building', 'civil' and 'specialist' companies on a broad range of UK

based projects and non-contentious commercial issues, including increasing amounts of PFI work.

The successful candidate will be a Solicitor or Barrister with a minimum of 8 years' experience, (the majority of which will have been gained in-house on non-contentious construction matters) who can demonstrate a solid grasp of standard forms (JCT, ICE etc). As important as experience will be the ability to give genuinely practical and commercial solutions to business people ranging from Commercial Directors of large businesses to MDs of small concerns. A proactive approach to your own work and the company's business will be a prerequisite, as will be an attitude of 'ownership' to drive projects forward.

If you believe you combine a commonsense and results-oriented approach with a strong but down-to-earth personality, then please contact our retained consultant Lindsey Newman at In-House Legal, First Floor, High Holborn House, 52-54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL. Tel: 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 831 6498. E-mail: Lindseynewman@hwgroup.com http://www.hwgroup.com

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## NEW 1 SQUARE

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(formerly of 11 New Square)

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In addition Sebastian Prentis and David Warner have accepted invitations to join Chambers following the completion of their pupillages.

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Sandra Corbett  
Colette Wilkins  
Mark Hubbard  
John Eidmou  
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David Warner

Senior Clerk: Warren Lee

We are embarking on an expansion in membership in our core practice areas and we therefore invite applications from practitioners at all levels, particularly but not exclusively in the following fields:

Company/Insolvency Professional Negligence Landlord and Tenant, and Property  
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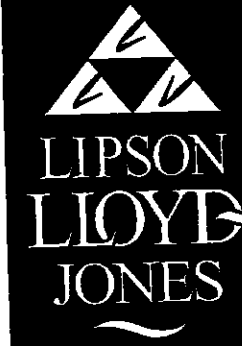
Our client is a major US multinational which is recognised as a market leader within the engineering sector. As a result of the company's continuing expansion, an additional lawyer is now sought to join a small, high profile legal team based in the UK.

The successful candidate will advise all levels of management within the group's businesses in the UK, Europe, Middle East and Africa on a wide range of legal matters in addition to the negotiation and drafting of complex agreements.

The ideal candidate will have gained broad commercial experience within a leading law firm or in-house legal department. He/she will possess initiative and maturity together with the ability to assess risks and to work closely with business colleagues in developing effective commercial solutions. The role will involve travel within the UK and overseas. Language skills would be an advantage.

For the successful individual, an excellent package is offered together with exceptional career opportunities.

Our client is committed to achieving equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sectors of the community.



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For further information and a conference brochure please contact:

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Assistants who have joined the Allen & Overy tax department from other firms are happy with their decision, and not only because of work quality and monitoring. For some it is the fact that we're based all together, on the same floor - a knowledge sharing centre. For at least one person it's our building (we think our gym and restaurant might be part of the attraction there).

Some of our assistants consider the team reassuringly eccentric; no tax department clone here, but each an individual lateral thinker - crucial in our view for a Tax Lawyer.

The one thing everyone agrees on is that whilst we work hard, it's fun to work here. No-one stands on ceremony and you won't be dropped in at the deep end on your own; we provide a supportive environment.

If you're thinking about tax and coming up to qualification, why don't you come and get the measure of our approach for yourself. Once you've met us, we'd be disappointed if you wanted to talk to anyone else.

For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultants Kate Stubbins or Stephen Rodway on 0171 405 6062 (0950 559 233 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Legal, Confidential fax 0171 831 6394.

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*Corporate Lawyers*

Our corporate practice is at the very core of our firm and makes a significant contribution to our worldwide business. It comprises a number of specialists practice groups, all of which have an international dimension, and we are seeking additional lawyers, who are both ambitious and enthusiastic, to join these groups.

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We are active on all aspects of corporate finance, including mergers and acquisitions, flotations and new issues and reorganisations. Clients include an interesting and impressive array of quoted companies, both domestic and international, public authorities, partnerships and private companies.

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We advise a wide variety of leading institutions in all sectors of the global financial markets on new products and services, regulatory and compliance matters, derivatives products, capital efficiency and arbitrage opportunities and strategic planning.

**IT/TELECOMS**

We structure and negotiate sophisticated IT and Telecom transactions for leading edge international corporations, government departments and financial institutions and universities. Software licensing and development agreements, telecoms services and equipment arrangements and outsourcing contracts feature frequently and we advise on regulatory and compliance issues, piracy and computer crime.

**INVESTMENT FUNDS**

The lawyers who work within our active Investment Funds practice advise on the structuring and marketing of investment trusts, unit trusts and off-shore funds, which frequently involves us acting as project manager on product launches or reconstructions.

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- have computer and word-processing skills
- show thoroughness and attention to detail

Knowledge and experience of any of company law, trust law, charity law, employment law and private international law would be an advantage.

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For an application form please contact World Service Recruitment Office (quoting ref. 27492/17) Room 111 NE Block, House Strand, London, WC2B 4PH Tel. 0171 834 7864 (answer machine).

Application forms to be returned no later than 12:00 noon Tuesday April 14th.

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# Owen strikes note of optimism for troubled Hoddle

FROM OLIVER HOYT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN BERNE

AFTER three days of living through an episode of *Emergency Ward 10*, Glenn Hoddle wrapped his England players in cotton wool yesterday. Working on the basis that not even his injury-plagued squad could hurt themselves playing cards, he took two of them to the South Bucks Bridge Club as a prelude to boarding the air ambulance to Switzerland.

It was all fake beams, wood paneling and timbered galleries, a place that oozed Little Englander solidity. It was comfort and safety combined. To fit in with the ambience, Hoddle announced that there were no more injuries to report and that the only reinforcements would come from within.

He said that Jamie Redknapp and Dominic Matteo could play in the under-21 match tonight and then take their places on the bench the night after to bolster the full squad. To increase those positive vibes, he ceded

centre stage to two of the most redoubtable figures in the squad, Michael Owen and Steve McManaman. McManaman wore a baseball hat and his usual frown of faintly puzzled indifference. Always spiky, he contented himself with contradicting most of the opinions that were put to him. The Liverpool captain had not really changed him, he is a passionate person, even if he does not look it, and he has always been a great talker in the dressing room. He finished off by saying that, against the Swiss tomorrow night, he was ready to "smash the myth" that he never played well for England.

Owen did his bit, too. He was his usual fund of absolute, unimpeachable, unfazeable, unamused optimism. He behaves a bit like he plays: nothing troubles him off the court, nothing distracts him, he sees every question coming. He might be 18 and the

youngest England international this century, but he is already a couple of steps ahead.

After all the injuries and withdrawals and Hoddle's dismay, it is in Owen, McManaman and Paul Merson that the significance of tomorrow night's match in the Wankdorf Stadium lies. For McManaman and Merson, it represents a probable last chance to force themselves back into the forefront of Hoddle's thinking. For Owen, it is a chance to build on his stellar debut against Chile last month.

"It was a lot different to playing in the Premiership," Owen said of that game. "A lot of the time, you have got two man-to-man markers and a sweeper, whereas in the league you often find a flat back four. Everything was much more organised, it was much harder to get round the back of the defence. The defence is much tighter and much quicker. It was a great experience and hopefully I will have improved as a player because of that. I am learning all the time. At my age, I don't think you can stop learning."

"I don't think what I have already achieved will really sink in until I have finished my career. The shirt from my first cap is up on my bedroom wall. I thought I did all right. A lot of people said I played really well, but I'm not sure about that. I suffered from a bit of nerves, but I think that's only natural. I didn't see any reason to be overawed."

With that, they left the South Bucks Bridge Club and boarded the team coach to the airport. There were no more injuries, no more updates, no more news. There was an episode of *Keeping Up Appearances* on the flight television. By the time that the plane landed in Switzerland, everything seemed suddenly much better. In Tunisia, England's opening opponents in the World Cup, suffered a significant blow yesterday when Hassene Gabsi, their leading midfielder, was ruled out with a knee ligation injury.



Much has happened to rugby union over the past 12 months, but the National School Sevens at Rosslyn Park, which began yesterday, remains a welcome landmark in a year-changing calendar. It has produced some thrilling moments over the years and given youngsters such as Simon Hewitt-Avison, of Taunton, pictured above sprinting clear of the Giggleswick defence, the chance to show their worth and promise (Julian Guyer writes).

The tournament has attracted a record 785 teams, who will compete in various competitions over four days. For the first

time in its 59-year history, Rosslyn Park will be holding a girls' event. Pupils from St Bees, Range High School, Minister, Leigh CTC, King's Macleodfield and John Cleveland schools will earn their place in rugby history when they compete on Thursday for a trophy that will be presented by Gill Burns, the England women's captain.

The competition began yesterday with the Festival Tournament, where Canford began the defence of their title with four straight victories to win group A. Their predecessors, Bryanston, also looked in excellent form as they went undefeated in

winning their group, but the spirit of the competition was epitomised by Ray Williams, rugby master at another Dorset school, Claysmore, who just missed out on finishing top of their group.

"We've no right really to be here with the Bryanstons of this world. We only have 120 boys, but 90 of them play rugby," Williams said. "My colleague, Archie Fay, and I have 100 years of rugby experience between us. We want our boys to play the game the way it was meant to be played and use it as a basis for learning about life."

# Injuries deal blow to Brown's plans

CRAIG BURLLEY and Paul Lambert yesterday withdrew from the Scotland squad to play Denmark tomorrow because of injury, leaving Craig Brown, the coach, to field a side without any of its recognised midfield quintet.

Gary McAllister is already ruled out of this match and the World Cup finals in France because of knee surgery, while David Hopkin, of Leeds United, withdrew from the squad last week because of an eye injury. John Collins trained with the squad yesterday, but Brown has assured his club, AS Monaco, that he will not use the player, who is carrying a thigh injury.

It almost certainly means that Billy McKinlay, of Blackburn Rovers, will get a chance to prove he can fill McAllister's role in France.

Wales take on Jamaica, at Ninian Park tomorrow, but are more concerned about the long-term implications of

where they will be staging their home matches during the qualifying campaign for the 2000 European championship. They open their programme against Italy on September 5 but, with the National Stadium in Cardiff unavailable because of reconstruction work, they face a dilemma.

They can either stay in Wales and play at Ninian Park, the Vetch Field or the Racecourse Ground, but restricting attendances to less than 15,000, or "defect" to Merseyside, at Anfield or Goodison Park, where they could attract up to 45,000 fans and raise much-needed revenue for the Football Association of Wales. A decision will be made this month.

The Times FA Youth Cup semi-final draw: Leeds United v Everton; Chelsea or Blackburn Rovers v Peterborough United. Ties to be played over two legs.

# Scotland face tour upheaval

BY MARK SOUSTER

AFTER a season that again ended with expectations unfulfilled, culminating in defeat by England, against whom they conceded their heaviest number of points, Scotland face the prospect of a tour to Australia this summer without several key players.

It is understood that Doddie Weir, Alan Tait, Rob Wainwright, Tony Stanger, George Graham and Peter Walton are all unlikely to be available either through injury or the desire to rest ahead of an even more demanding year that includes the World Cup. Gary Armstrong, the captain, will make his mind up at the end of the season.

Weir is expected to see Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, on

Thursday, to spell out his need to recuperate after two years of virtually non-stop rugby, but it is insisted that no pressure to withdraw is being put upon him, or the other Newcastle players, by their club.

Weir, who faces nine more demanding league games in England before the end of the season, said yesterday: "I have a few knocks, it's been a lengthy season and it is going to be very hard motivation-wise. You have got to look at your long-term future in the game." His comments suggest his mind is already made up.

Rob Andrew, the Newcastle director of rugby, believes it is a tour too many. "I don't think

the players need it, but clearly there are international board regulations and legal issues involved. The club has no choice but to let them go, if they choose to."

"We will discuss with each player whether it is wise to go. If the players put their hands on their hearts, none would want to tour this summer."

Although, overall, Scotland's ledger shows a heavy deficit after seven international matches this season, Ian McCreehan, the assistant coach, said: "I was pleased to see good rugby against England, which earned us two tries. It is not all gloom and doom." Jim Telfer, the coach,

agreed, his one deep regret in the Five Nations being the loss to Wales. "We should have won," he said. "That would have given us two wins and represented what I believe would have been a satisfactory return."

Ireland have named an unchanged squad to face England at Twickenham on Saturday week. The 22 on duty at Lansdowne Road are joined by Mick Galwey, who was in the squad originally selected for the Wales game. Among them is Malcolm O'Kelly, who plays for London Irish tonight against Gloucester in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, a match that is crucial to their hopes of moving out of the relegation zone.

# SPORT IN BRIEF

## McRae sets pace to ward off Finnish duo

**MOTOR RALLYING:** Colin McRae was building an impressive lead last night and on course for victory in the Rally of Portugal (Kevin Eason writes).

The former world champion was heading a British fightback, with Richard Burns, winner of the Safari Rally earlier this month, also pushing through the field to spend most of the second day in sixth place. But McRae was in charge, the Scot putting his Subaru Impreza into a lead of more than 30 seconds over three former world champions: the Finnish pair of Juha Kankkunen, in a Ford Escort, and Tommi Makinen (Mitsubishi Lancer) and Carlos Sainz, of Spain, in a Toyota Corolla. Wesley Barber, 16, from Northamptonshire, has become the youngest British driver to win a motor race, triumphing in the first round of the French Renault-Elf Campus Cup at Le Mans.

## Eager Eagle

**RUGBY LEAGUE:** Willie Morganson, the Australian centre, could return for Sheffield Eagles in Saturday's Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final against Salford Reds at Headingley. Morganson has been suffering from a persistent back injury but will start for the Eagles in an Alliance match against Salford on Thursday.

## Spice appointed

**HOCKEY:** The Great Britain Olympic Hockey Board (GBOHB) has announced that Chris Spice, the Australian-born performance director of the English Hockey Association (EHA), is to become hockey performance director for Great Britain until after the 2000 Olympic Games. Spice was also appointed chairman of the GBOHB performance committee, succeeding Richard Dodds, the former England and Great Britain captain, who remains on the committee.

# FOR THE RECORD

**ATHLETICS**  
OHPRING, Lancashire: Flatelate fall race. Men 9 miles (800m): 1. M. Knott (Bingley) 17:15m; 2. M. Horrocks (Clitheroe-Moors); 3. J. Bower (Bingley); 4. G. Webb (Colder Valley); 5. S. Swenney (Bowland); 6. J. Bower (Bingley); 7. J. Bower (Bingley); 8. J. Bower (Bingley); 9. J. Bower (Bingley); 10. J. Bower (Bingley).

**BASKETBALL**  
NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Minnesota Timberwolves 109, Houston Rockets 109. Seattle SuperSonics 102, Cleveland Cavaliers 101. Utah Jazz 112, New York Knicks 102. Phoenix Suns 112, Portland Trail Blazers 102. Los Angeles Lakers 106, Sacramento Kings 106. Dallas Mavericks 106, San Antonio Spurs 106. New Jersey Nets 107, Washington Wizards 107. Orlando Magic 107, Miami Heat 107. Phoenix Suns 106, San Antonio Spurs 106.

**BOWLS**  
GREENGAUGE SCOTTISH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final: David Brown (Prestwick) 6, Iain Macleod (Prestwick) 6. Nottingham: All-England mixed inter-club championship. Final: Ian Wright (Leamington) 17, John Taylor (Leamington) 17. Welsh Indoor National Championship: Pairs: Second round. G. Dennis and M. Roberts (Llanelli) 7, J. Jones and S. Jones (Porthcawl) 7. J. Jones and S. Jones (Porthcawl) 7, G. Dennis and M. Roberts (Llanelli) 7.

**FOOTBALL**  
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Division one: Ebin v Chatham postponed.

**GOLF**  
ORLANDO, Florida: Bay Hill Invitational. Leading final scores (US unless stated): 274: E. Els (S.A.); 275: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 276: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 277: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 278: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 279: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 280: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 281: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 282: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 283: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 284: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 285: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 286: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 287: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 288: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 289: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 290: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 291: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 292: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 293: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 294: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 295: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 296: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 297: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 298: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 299: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 300: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 301: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 302: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 303: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 304: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 305: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 306: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 307: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 308: J. Mackenzie (S.A.); 309: J. 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Cambridge crew weigh in nearly a stone a man heavier



Cambridge lined up yesterday without Toby Wallace, their No 5, who was excused training because of a sore throat and slight temperature

Oxford make light of scale story

THERE were raised eyebrows at the Hurlingham Club yesterday when, at the official Boat Race weigh-in, Cambridge scaled an average of almost 15 stone, making them the heaviest crew in the history of the event.

course last Saturday and Leander averaged four stone a man more," Mahon, a New Zealander, said. "Guys over 95 kilos have got to be really good — as good as their weight suggests. Power has to be harnessed. Weights between 85 and 95 kilos are my ideal."

Both crews had relatively quiet days on the water yesterday. Cambridge were without Toby Wallace, their No 5 man, for both their trips, with Robin Williams, the coach, deputising in the morning and Crispin Page, of Goldie, in the afternoon.

Oxford's penultimate week of training, in Amsterdam, was spent in the company of their reserves, Isis, on waters well known by their 1997 coach, Rene Mijnders, who was on hand to make observations.

Table titled 'THE 1998 BOAT RACE CREWS' listing rowers for Oxford and Cambridge across various boat classes like 8 South, P A Ouseingham, J G Ball, R Conable, T J Wallace, A Sheehy, S F Fischer, M Weber, and A J Peets.

Cambridge's weight advantage is 13lb per man, the second biggest since the event began. "A good big one will always beat a good little one," is an expression that might be true in boxing but this is not always the case in rowing.

David Cassidy, the Cambridge president who will stroke the reserve crew, Goldie, on Saturday, accepted that his Blue boat had more weight to carry but added: "We have the horsepower to do that. A powerful car will beat a less powerful car."

CYCLING: FORMER WORLD CHAMPION PLANNING EARLY RETURN TO SADDLE

Armstrong dispels retirement fears

LANCE ARMSTRONG, the former world champion, who returned abruptly to his home in the United States only six days into his long-awaited comeback from cancer, has rejected suggestions that he is about to retire from professional cycling.

Armstrong, a former Tour de France stage winner, denied that his return to America had been prompted by a dispute over tactics with his team, US Postal, or by a lack of success since making his return to racing in February.

Armstrong, out of the sport for 18 months as he underwent surgery and then extensive chemotherapy, had started the Paris-Nice race with high hopes of a top-three finish.

Armstrong has already missed the first round of the World Cup series and the Milan-San Remo race, but hopes to return to European competition on April 15 at the Fleche Wallonne race in Belgium.

RUGBY LEAGUE

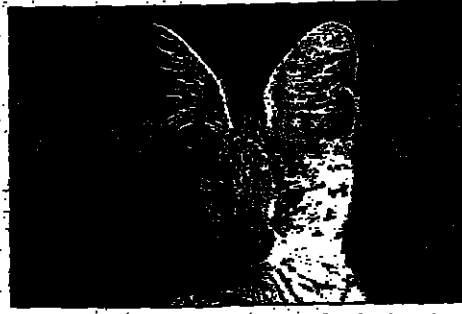
Connolly at centre of salary row

WIGAN Warriors risk losing Gary Connolly to rugby union or Manly-Warringah, the Australian league side, unless the Super League club can meet strict wage restrictions imposed this season.

Wigan have had half their monthly £65,000 income from News Corporation, parent company of The Times and the Super League backers, stopped by the Rugby Football League. Mike Nolan, the Wigan chief executive, said: "I hope people at the top realise this could cost Wigan some of their best players."

A feline safari encounter

Wildlife on One: Serval Secrets BBC1, 8.30pm The serval is an African small cat which noted for very much, being a secret and elusive creature that has rarely been filmed.



The elusive serval cat (BBC1, 8.30pm)

Water Week: The Profits Pump BBC2, 9.00pm The privatised water companies are widely seen as licences to make money for their shareholders and directors while customers are forced to suffer high prices with no obvious improvement in service.

Cutting Edge: Thirty-something Channel 4, 9.00pm The subjects of this honest and revealing film are three women, well into their thirties, who feel unfulfilled. For Sarah and Jan the problem is not having any children.

A nanny has made her ache for a child of her own. But she does not fancy getting married and goes for artificial insemination. Babs adores children but accepts that at 38 it may be too late to have them.

RADIO CHOICE

Compo's Country Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only) Greater praise hath no man for a single place than the words of Bill Owen for Holmfirth in Yorkshire: "I fell in love with it, it's my town. It's a horrible rainy day but I'm always in a good temper in this town."

Beyond Tubby Radio 2, 9.30pm The tuba and the euphonium, much mocked instruments both, are the subjects of this hour, in which we discover that many of the people who now play tuba professionally found their forte by chance.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey 2.00 Chris Moyles 4.00 Dave Navarro. Includes 3.45 and 4.00 The Ed Sheeran on Tour 8.30 News Update. Mark Kermode review last night's Oscars 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 GIVE WARREN

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Of The Show: Shadow Baby 7.30 What's News 7.45 The Lab 8.00 News in German (645 only) 8.05 World Business Report 9.15 The Corporate Handbook 9.30 Literature File Brave New World 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 Newsday 10.30 On Screen 11.00 Newsday 11.30 Celebration 12.00 News 12.05am World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Health Matters 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newsday 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Mailbag FM Last 3.00 News; News in German (645 only) 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 The Grindell Collection 4.00 News 4.15 Mailbag 4.30 In Sight; News in German (645 only) 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 One Planet News in German (645 only) 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Megarise 8.00 Newsday 8.00 News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 Mailbag FM Last 8.00 Newsday 8.30 Outlook 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Mailbag 12.00 Newsday 12.30am The Farming World 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Discovery 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Mailbag FM Last 3.00 News World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 One Planet 3.50 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Rowe 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 James Gable: Encore! 8.00 Nigel Ogden 8.00 Amy Adams: Century 8.30 Britain Today with John Foran: The Chair 10.30 Richard Johnson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Anne O'Han

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Radio 5 on Five 4.00 Midday with Julian Worlock 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Includes coverage of the B international between Switzerland and England 10.00 Late Night Live with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night with Fred Sharp 8.00 Morning Reports

VRGIN RADIO

5.00am Calvin Jones 7.00 The Chris Evans Breakfast Show 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Robin Banks 7.00 (FM) Phil Coyne (FM) Ray Coles 10.00 Mark Forster 2.00am Jersey Lee Garcia / Howard Pearce

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey. Nick Bailey presents music for the morning 8.00 Henry Kelly. Includes the Record of the Week and a recipe for sizzling lamb tagines 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jere Jones introduces listeners' favourite pieces of music 2.00pm Concerto. J.S. Bach (Concerto in C minor for Violin and Cello) 3.00 Jamie Cullum (3.30 Newsday; Arts news and news) 4.00p Concerto with John Burningham (3.30 Newsday; Concerto) 4.15 The Grindell Collection 4.30 Newsday 4.45 Britain Today 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Roundup 6.00 Newsday 6.30 One Planet 6.50 Newsday 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.25 Pause for Thought 7.30 Megarise 8.00 Newsday 8.00 News 8.05 World Business Report 8.15 Britain Today 8.30 Mailbag FM Last 8.00 Newsday 8.30 Outlook 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Outlook 11.30 Mailbag 12.00 Newsday 12.30am The Farming World 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 Newsday 1.30 Discovery 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Mailbag FM Last 3.00 News World Business Report 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 One Planet 3.50 Newsday 4.30 Europe Today 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Europe Today

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirey Young with Bill Overton 9.00 Scot Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Anna Rastburn 10.30 James White 1.00am Ian Collins 6.00 The Early Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Petroc Trevelyan 10.30 Artist of the Week: Roger Norrington (2/5) 11.00 Sound Stories: The Cult of the Personality (2/5) 12.00 Composer of the Week (2/5) 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: BBC Proms Chamber Music 97, Emily Beynon, Bala, Michael Grier, The Irish Celtic Ensemble, harp; Joliffe (Piano solo; Incantation No 2 for solo flute); Sax (Elegiac Trio); 2.00 The BBC Orchestra. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Jozef Kocka; violin: Marjory Bratby; with Elizabeth Byles, violin 4.00 Violos: Spotlight on Michael Chance (1) 4.45 Music Machine: Young Musicians '98 6.00 In Tune, with Sean Rafferty

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.40 Saturday in Parliament 6.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Robin Liddle: 0171-580 4444 10.00 (FM) News; Compo's Country. See Choice 10.00 (LW) The Ed Sheeran on Tour 8.30 News 10.15 (LW) On These Days, with Liz Lochhead 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Medicine Now 12.00 News; Yes and Yours, with John Wells 12.25pm Quota Unquota (1) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nicky Clarke 1.40 Archers (1) 1.50 Shipping Forecast 1.55 (LW) The Ed Sheeran on Tour 8.30 News 2.30 (FM) News; Books and Company (1) 2.30 (FM) Let's Dances (3/4) (1) 3.00 (FM) News; The Aberdeen Shift 4.00 (FM) Kaleidoscope, with Paul Vaughan;

FREQUENCY GUIDE: RADIO 1: FM 97.8-99.4; RADIO 2: FM 88.0-90.2; RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4; RADIO 4: FM 92.4-94.0; (LW) 150.7-152.0; RADIO 5: LW 630, 930; WORLD SERVICE: LW 630, 930; CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102; VIRGIN RADIO: FM 105.5; MW 1197, 1215, 1215.1; UK RAIL: MW 1053, 1059; TELEVISION and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Grigory and John McManis.

Answers from page 47 LEEANGLE (b) A wooden club beat at the striking end. MUCHULKA (a) A written bond. An adaptation of the Hindi word, LABARUM (a) The Imperial standard adopted by Constantine the Great (306-337AD), being the Roman military standard of the late Empire modified by the addition of Christian symbols. MARIPUT (a) The African zori. Zorilla expensis, a small animal of the weasel family with black and white stripes. SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1. N6d1 Ra2; 2. Ndf7; 3. Nd6d and White wins.

Armstrong: discouraged. A photograph of Lance Armstrong looking downcast, with the caption 'Armstrong: discouraged'.

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# Snapshots of an altogether different world

You can say what you like about the American photographer Joel-Peter Witkin, except maybe, "Are you available for weddings and baptisms?" This is largely because Witkin takes the sort of photographs that would make the film-processing department at your local Boots chemist phone for the vice squad.

It is possible that Witkin's 120,000 photos are right up your street, but only if your street has been the scene of a multiple pile-up and littered with legless accident victims and deformed corpses. But Elton John, Richard Gere and Hollywood hostess Jane Fonda, Cindy Crawford have loved them. Witkin's work that she threw up at one of his openings in Los Angeles, it was as fancy a compliment as Joel-Peter Witkin could hope for.

You wonder what makes Witkin tick only for as long as it takes him to open his mouth: "My grandmother had one leg and in the

morning I would smell her gangrenous leg," he explained last night on Channel 4's *Vile Bodies* — the first of three programmes looking at how some of the world's top art photographers are trying to jolt us into looking at the human body in new ways. "When most kids wake up in the morning and smell coffee, I would smell my grandmother's rotting leg." Not a tip most estate agents recommend to seduce potential buyers.

What was touching was that Witkin referred to his grandmother as "physically challenged", a strangely coy siver of political correctness from a man who went on to tell us that he had his first sexual encounter in a "freak show", with a pre-op transsexual. And that was very, very important for me and very, very thrilling experience. "Any other influences? Since you ask, at the age of six, he saw a car crash. Something rolled towards his feet: yep, a young

girl's severed head. "Out of it," says Witkin. "I see many roots extending to my visual work in the use of severed heads, masks, and my concern with violence, pain and death." Witkin is a man who makes you believe in destiny.

Wheelchair-bound Jacqueline Tebbian — who agreed to pose in one of Witkin's trademark fantasy photos, in which he plants deformed models in a tableau and among props which echo medieval religious paintings — is often asked if she felt exploited. She answers no, because "he never made me feel as though he was using my disability as a sensational aspect of the picture. It was always within the context of some larger vision he had. I was really amazed by what he had done. If it really was quite beautiful. There is a beauty in deformity, if you allow yourself to see it." There is, but is

an intelligent glimpse into this unknown world: even if, in the end, they decided to stick with the Athena Maris poster that hangs in the dining room.

Saville's photographs, taken as she pressed herself against a sheet of Perspex in order to flatten and amplify her already fleshy body, were strangely arresting, with a sensual quality that reminded you of the giant canvases of Jumbo women she exhibited at the Royal Academy's *Sensation* show. The folds of flesh — like a shag pei's face — were startling enough on a small screen to make you want to see these kneaded images in the towering eight-foot-square prints she makes of them.

John Coppins also goes in for monumental photographs, which give the magnified images of his own beer-bellied, goggling, old man's body an eerie, sculptural presence. "I'm not dealing with the perfect body," he tells us. "I'm

dealing with another kind of truth: that is, how the body *really* is and why we don't accept it." But guess what: he still sucks his stomach in just before the shutter clicks. Huh!

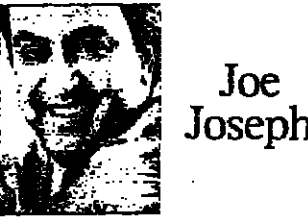
Rory and Wendy Alec, two of the missionaries we met in *Witness* (Channel 4), would probably see these photographs as further symptoms of the disease they must cure. Wendy and Rory, who have moved here from South Africa to launch The Christian Channel, could only be television missionaries: it's the clothes. There must be a mail-order catalogue that enables televangelists to keep their wardrobe topped up with just the right shade of pastel suits that will enable them to blend into even the most parish-stuffier backdrop.

To his credit, the director Norman Hull never succumbed to smirking at Wendy and Rory, or at the other missionaries from Ugan-

da, Brazil and America who have turned the tables and are now travelling to Britain in the hope of sowing the seeds of Christianity on what is now regarded, in Christian circles, as barren ground. Nor does he snigger at Sister Cummings and Sister Cherrington, two young, apple-pie Mormons from America's Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who never drop their Colgate smiles as they knock all day on the unwelcoming front doors of Heanor, a market town in Derbyshire.

But he leaves you feeling that it will take more than Rory, Wendy and the Sisters Cummings and Cherrington to lift church attendance in England from its record low of 9 per cent. Now if Rory would only hire Jeremy Paxman to front his TV station, we might see a few sparks flying: "On tonight's programme... 91 per cent of Britons don't go to church and we ask: are they stark raving mad?"

### REVIEW



Witkin exposing it, or exploiting it? The success of Edmund Coulter's film is that he has presented the work of Witkin — along with that of the British artist Jenny Saville and of the New York photographer John Coppins — in a way that is frank enough to make fans of their work purr in admiration, but also unsensationalist enough to make doubters grateful that they have at least been given

- 1.00am Business Breakfast (54863)  
 .00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (74415)  
 .00 Good Living (490601)  
 .05 Klyfy (1) (281828)  
 .05 Style Challenge (562381)  
 .10 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (522647)  
 .15 The Really Useful Show (1) (146456)  
 .30 News Rooms (186595)  
 .35 Real News (1) (829989)  
 .05pm Call My Bluff (584914)  
 .35 Wipeout (278128)  
 .00 One O'Clock News (1) (7552)  
 .30 Regional News (1) (54461328)  
 .40 The Weather Show Investigates reports of agricultural and industrial pollution in the mid-Wales water supply (6875927)  
 .45 Neighbours (1) (782129)  
 .10 Inroads (1) (375207)  
 .00 Lion Country (5295)  
 .00 Wiggly Park (6259417) 3.25 Playdays (77721) 3.55 Hubba Bubba (74922) 4.10 Chucklevid Critters (1) (553336) 4.35 The Really Wild Show (1) (5510347) 5.00 Newsround (1) (883876) 5.10 Grange Hill (1) (4186417)  
 .35 Neighbours (1) (1) (508788)  
 .00 Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (347)  
 .30 Regional News (1) (927)  
 .00 Holiday Jill Dando arrives by Tiger Moth in Midhurst to stay at one of England's most historic hotels; Kate Humble visits Nepal; Kevin Woodford plays a round of golf at a child-friendly holiday village on the west coast of France; and Craig Doyle is in the Bahamas (1) (1279)  
 .30 EastEnders: Kathy receives an offer which is hard to refuse (1) (81)  
 .00 Changing Rooms: Transforming a site office into a former-show home and a modern sitting room (1) (2417)  
 .30 Wildlife on One: Survival Secrets David Attenborough narrates this intimate portrait of a serval cat family in Tanzania's Ngongoro Crater (1) (9434)  
 .00 Nine O'Clock News (1) (6323)  
 .30 Crimewatch UK Police appeal for help in finding a man who beat up an old lady before ransacking her house, and information on a gang of armed robbers targeting garages in Sussex (1) (851811)  
 .20 The Oscars Highlights of last night's 70th Academy Awards from Los Angeles (1) (493182) WALES: 10.20 Week In Week Out (526365) 10.50 Give it a Try - Before You Die! (74598) 11.05 The Update (4029) 11.10 10 Minutes: Staff Test (615274) 1.40 News (240969) 1.45 BBC News 24  
 .15am Crimewatch Update (1) (3073545)  
 .25 Cricket: Sixth Test — West Indies v England Highlights of the fifth and final day (634267)  
 .55 Lifes of the Field (tw. 1963) Sidney Poitier stars as a travelling handyman who agrees to help five German runs on their small Arizona farm. Directed by Ralph Nelson (1) (543018)  
 .25 Weather (404954)  
 .30 BBC News 24

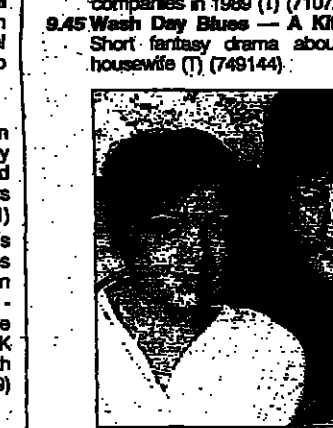
- BBC2**  
 6.10am Scotland in the Enlightenment (3301502) 6.35 Bertha Morici (139705)  
 7.00 See Hear News (1) and signing (772786) 7.15 Teletubbies (1) (573707) 7.40 Captain Caveman (1) (632521) 8.00 Blue Peter (1) (1) (8228) 8.30 The Secret Life of Toys (614637) 8.45 The Record (3763837)  
 9.10 Instrument Tales (626283) 9.25 See You, See Me (791057) 9.45 Numberline (954798) 10.00 Teletubbies (63811) 10.30 Watch (3248291) 10.45 Teaching Today (69343) 11.15 Wogheads (704565) 11.25 News (1) (1) (60507) (1858231) 12.00 See Hear (1) (1) (60507) 12.30pm Working Lunch (25298) 1.00 Fireman Sam (1) (4768527) 1.10 The Leisure Hour (7245415) 2.10 Make or Break (22681540) 2.40 News (1) 2.45 Westminster (4925309) 3.25 News (1) 3.30 Gardening from Scratch (703)  
 4.00 Change That (1) (4547927) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (7785) WALES: Paralympic Writer Games 5.30 Young Musicians 6.20 Food and Drink 6.50 FAW Invitation Cup: Wrexham v Swansea 9.30-10.00 Seinfeld  
 4.55 Esther: Fire (6517908) 5.30 Today's the Day (796) 6.00 Paralympic Writer Games (1) (852058)  
 7.05 Water Works: A tour of Victorian water architecture (1/3) (1) (488785)  
 7.10 BBC Young Musicians '98 Five percussionists vie for a place in Sunday's final (695973)  
 8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor: How severe itching during pregnancy can lead to stillbirth; negative effects of counselling (1) (8569)  
 8.30 Food and Drink Spring salads; Jilly Golden visits Darjeeling (1) (7076)  
 9.00 The Profits Pump: Examining the financial success of the privatisation of the water companies in 1989 (1) (71022) 9.45 Wash Day Blues — A Kitchen Sink Short: fantasy drama about a bored housewife (1) (749144)  
 10.00 How Do You Want Me? Ian (Dylan Moran) tells four of the fire brigade women his photographic project on country stations unravels some dodgy dealings. Lisa's (Charlotte Coleman) controversial arrangements become a major topic of conversation (1) (67796)  
 10.30 Newswatch (1) (949945) 11.15 Sainfield (1) (485095) WALES: The Profits Pump (1) (72881) 11.55 Weather (891502) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (82496)  
 12.30am Learning Zone: The Passionate Statistician (37455) 1.00 The Arch Newer Steps (34057) 2.00 The Science Collection (60478) 4.00 French Experience (47800) 5.00 Career Moves (852632) 5.45 Pollution (38499)

- HTV**  
 6.00am GMTV (4473434)  
 9.25 This Morning (1) (863336)  
 9.30 Vanessa (533728)  
 10.10 This Morning (1) (8633415)  
 12.20pm Regional News (829582)  
 12.30 News (1) and weather (12724)  
 1.00 Shortland Street (1958) 1.30 Home and Away (1) (1105) 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (5043434)  
 2.45 Waffle Nick Wey introduces a new quiz show in which contestants conspire to outwit each other with words (1) (732076)  
 3.15 News (1) (1319521)  
 3.20 Regional News and weather (1316434)  
 3.25 Potamus Park (130657) 3.35 Wagon Train (1) (3781714) 3.45 The Adventures of Paddington Bear (779750) 3.50 Rupert (774144) 4.15 Extreme Ghostbusters (1) (647705)  
 4.40 WaveLength (1) (942478)  
 5.10 WALES: The Electric Chair (2576366)  
 5.10 What's My Line? (1) (2576366)  
 5.40 News (1) and weather (491328)  
 6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (801057)  
 6.25 Regional Weather (442453)  
 6.30 Regional News (845)  
 7.00 Emmerdale Kelly is caught stealing a dress from Kim's wardrobe (1) (6347)  
 7.30 BBC Young Musicians '98 Five percussionists vie for a place in Sunday's final (695973)  
 7.30 People and Pets New series (1) (279)  
 8.00 The Bill: McCann is told to find a valuable scarlet macaw (1) (5065)  
 8.30 Kavanagh QC: Care in the Community Kavanagh and old friend Peter Foxcott defend a young couple charged with killing their baby daughter. With John Thaw (1) (6052)  
 10.00 News at Ten (1) and weather (87540)  
 10.30 Regional News and weather (76959)

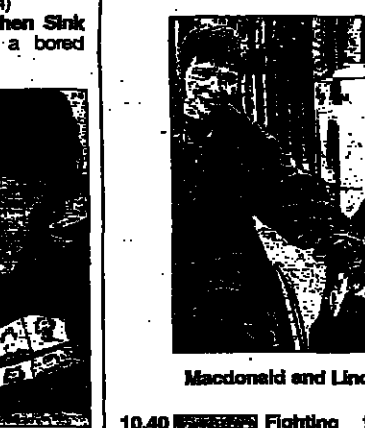
- CENTRAL**  
 As HTV West except:  
 1.00pm A Country Practice (15955)  
 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (1592724)  
 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (267666)  
 6.25-7.00 Central News (838306)  
 7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (375)  
 11.40 Renegade (812502)  
 3.20am Nationwide Football League Extra (802551)  
 4.15 Central Jobfinder '98 (3741639)  
 5.20 Asian Eye (1503212)
- WEST-COUNTRY**  
 As HTV West except:  
 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (8287873)  
 1.00-1.30 Emmerdale (15958)  
 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2576366)  
 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (97415)  
 7.30-8.00 Wild West Country (279)  
 11.40 Charlie Grace (812502)
- MERIDIAN**  
 As HTV West except:  
 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2576366)  
 6.00 Meridian Tonight (415)  
 6.30-7.00 The Hotel (845)  
 7.30-8.00 Outda In (279)  
 11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block B (812502)  
 5.00am FreeScreen (81569)
- ANGLIA**  
 As HTV West except:  
 1.00pm-1.30 Surprise Chefs (18558)  
 3.45-3.50 Paddington Bear (779750)  
 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2576366)  
 6.23 Anglia Weather (443182)  
 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (858069)  
 7.30-8.00 A Place in the Country (279)  
 10.29 Anglia Air Watch (338347)  
 11.40 Highlander (812502)
- S4C**  
 Starts: 6.00am Diwedd (19873)  
 6.00 Sesame Street (97163)  
 7.00 The Big Breakfast (84250)  
 8.00 Yn Fyw O'r Oceans (92279)  
 9.00 Schools (892182)  
 11.30 Powerhouse (3231)  
 12.00pm Montel Williams (84453)  
 12.30 Sesame Street (10366)  
 1.00 Slot Methrin (4766134)  
 1.15 Y Biob (4765902)  
 1.30 FILM: My Brother Jonathan (8766)  
 3.30 Collectors' Lot (873)  
 4.00 Fitter-to-One (908)  
 4.30 Countdown (882)  
 5.00 5 Pump (7453)  
 5.30 Howard Goodall's Choir Works (144)  
 6.00 Newyddion 6 (272521)  
 6.10 Heno (85616)  
 7.00 Pobl y Cwm (745347)  
 7.25 Duddy (940521)  
 8.00 Y Sloc Gell (3637)  
 9.30 Newyddion (2144)  
 9.00 O Ffery Dy Lygald (8279)  
 10.00 Brookside (937347)  
 10.35 FILM: Ed McBain's 57th Precinct: Ice (2793227)  
 12.20am Stap! Love, Lies and Lipstick (634309)  
 12.50 Gas (906022)  
 1.20 Diwedd (86146293)

- CHANNEL 4**  
 6.00am Sesame Street (97163)  
 7.00 The Big Breakfast (90453)  
 9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (7971429)  
 9.22 Lost Animals (864389) 9.30 Eureka (1) (953750) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (1) (9532057) 10.00 Founways Farm (6056873) 10.10 TVM (1) (8275569)  
 10.25 How We Used to Live (1) (8254076) 10.45 Guest (1) (7012704)  
 11.00 First Edition (5919182) 11.15 Stage One (9309705)  
 11.30 Powerhouse (3231) 12.00 Sesame Street (84453) 12.30pm Light Lunch: The unusual heroes from Star Wars (1) (11250)  
 1.30 The Master of Bankdam (1947) with Tom Walls, Dennis Price and Stephen Murray: Three generations of a family build up the fortunes of their wool mill. Directed by Walter Forde (87665)  
 3.30 Collectors' Lot: The work of Victorian photographer Juliet Margaret Cameron, celebrity postage marks, rare Penguin books and a visit to a medical museum (1) (873) 4.00 Fitter-to-One (1) (908)  
 4.30 Countdown (1) (554788) 4.55 Ricki Lake: Conservative women who fall for men with an outrageous dress sense (1) (862076) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (144)  
 6.00 Friends: Monica helps Chandler lose weight (1) (847)  
 6.30 Home Improvement: Tim and Al get stuck on a business trip (1) (837)  
 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (332453)  
 7.55 Remember When? (888328)  
 8.00 Classic Trains (2/6) How the railways have thrived to make the suburban dream come true. Narrated by John Peel (1) (1) (3637)  
 8.30 Brookside (1) (2144)

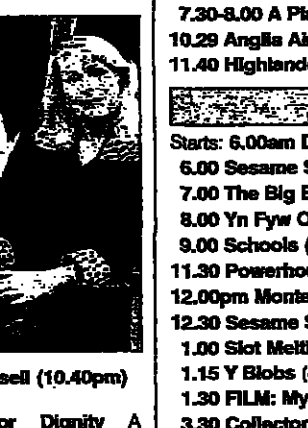
- CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE**  
 Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellites. Viewers with a Microsat decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.20275 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
- 6.00am News Early (8950540)  
 7.00 WideWorld (1) (513724) 7.30 Wildlife (858452) 8.35 Wimmer's House (1) (4471724) 8.00 Havakoz (1) (113326) 9.00 Dapplewood Farm (1) (1145297) 9.00 Espresso (5366163)  
 10.00 Woodland Tales (1) (9821142)  
 10.30 Sunset Beach (1) (5227076) 11.10 Lesca (2013347)  
 12.00 5 News (1) (115415) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (8077163) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (512095) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (6076434) 2.00 Beauty and the Beast (8471601) 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9631818)
- Shackelford, McLanahan (3.30pm)**  
 3.30 Baby of the Bride (1991) with Rue McLanahan, Ted Shackelford and Kristy McNichol. Comedy sequel with the 53-year-old bride of the last film falling pregnant. Directed by Bill Boby (294705)  
 5.20 Russell Grant's Postcards A visit to Raglan Castle (37192521)  
 5.30 The Great House Game (1) (1) (7089927)  
 6.00 100 Per Cent (7085940)  
 6.30 Family Affairs Jack is outraged by Lisa's claims (1) (7048892)  
 7.00 5 News (1) (5368909)  
 7.30 Woodland Tales Wildlife documentary looking at the blue tit (1) (7048670)  
 8.00 The Great Garden Game Clare Bradley and Toby Buckland present the gardening challenge show from the grounds of Highgate Castle where the teams have to plant and protect new trees (1) (6091417)  
 8.30 What's the Story? Weekly news magazine (484117)  
 9.00 The Sweeney Regan and Carter are faced with ringing alarm bells all over their patch (868927)  
 10.00 The Morwenne Banks Show Comic sketches from the former star of Absolutely (1117144)  
 10.30 The People vs Jerry Sadowitz Outrageous talk show (1) (128892)  
 11.00 The Jack Dasherby Show (9457237)  
 11.40 Movie Cafe Julia Brudner introduces footage from the Oscar ceremony. Plus an interview with Bob Hopkins (2857540)  
 12.10am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine (46467309)  
 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block B (5337632)  
 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (5411800)



Coleman and Moran star (10.00pm)



Macdonald and Lindsay (10.40pm)



Sarah longs to be a mum (9.00pm)

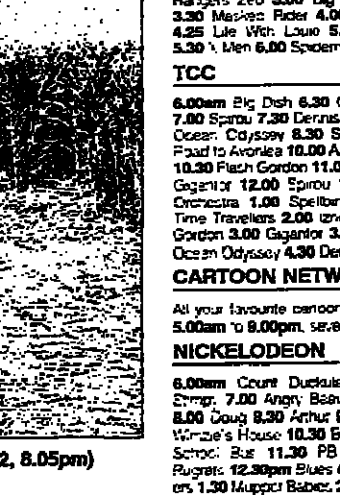
### SATELLITE AND CABLE

- FOR FURTHER LISTINGS SEE THURSDAY'S VISION**
- CY 1**  
 10am Sports Drama (2837) 7.30 Games (40) (707724) 7.45 Simpsons (2688) 8.00 News (1985) 8.10 News (1985) 8.20 News (1985) 8.30 News (1985) 8.40 News (1985) 8.50 News (1985) 9.00 News (1985) 9.10 News (1985) 9.20 News (1985) 9.30 News (1985) 9.40 News (1985) 9.50 News (1985) 10.00 News (1985) 10.10 News (1985) 10.20 News (1985) 10.30 News (1985) 10.40 News (1985) 10.50 News (1985) 11.00 News (1985) 11.10 News (1985) 11.20 News (1985) 11.30 News (1985) 11.40 News (1985) 11.50 News (1985) 12.00 News (1985) 12.10 News (1985) 12.20 News (1985) 12.30 News (1985) 12.40 News (1985) 12.50 News (1985)

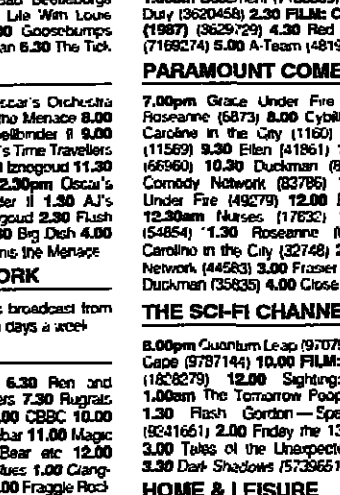
- SKY SPORTS 3**  
 12.00 Wrestling (2097387) 1.00pm Fish TV (207057) 2.00 Super League Classics (23840434) 3.30 World Wide Rugby (7747145) 5.00 Top Beach Soccer (6707) 6.00 Sports Illustrated (6707) 7.00m Fish TV (207057) 8.00m Boxing (382882) 9.00m Football (382882) 11.30m Rugby League Classics (2097387) 11.30m Close
- EUROSPORT**  
 7.30am Cycling (89618) 8.30 Football: Argentina v Bulgaria (28788) 10.30m Rugby (7070) 11.00 Eurocups (8957) 12.30m Rugby (18811) 1.00m Half Marathon, 12.30m (1236) 2.00m Tennis: Mercedes Suppl 9 (8527) 4.00m Selling (878) 4.30 Europe: (7963) 8.00m Tennis: Mercedes Suppl 9 — Live (10415) 8.00m Boxing: Johnson (8527) 9.00m Tennis: Mercedes Suppl 9 (8527) 10.00m World Cup Legends (3705) 11.00 SuperCup (5231) 12.00m Rally (8910) 12.30m SuperCup
- UK GOLD**  
 7.00am News the Twin (243163) 7.30 Neighbours (161307) 8.00m Crossroads (265798) 8.25m Eastenders (238608) 8.50m The Bill (372037) 9.30m Homeless: Way (2040434) 10.00m Shelly (890705) 10.30m The Sullivan (1140) 11.00m Casualty (200827) 12.00m Crossroads (8531705) 12.30m Neighbours (895892) 12.55m Homeless: Way (2040434) (1351678) 1.30m Russia (870789) 2.05m Sportsman (852889) 2.45m Stay Lucky (565989) 3.45m The Bill (372037) 4.15m Juke Box (815187) 5.00m Eastenders (238608) 5.15m Big Bear (483840) 5.30m The Bill (425257) 7.30m Darts Army (89252) 7.40m Rugby: Dame (892811) 8.00m City: Food and Drink (60521) 9.00m The Detectives (871880) 9.40m Backlog (701729) 10.45m The Chel (440556) 11.50m F.M. Investigate: Down (815187) 12.00m The World Cup Legends (3705) 11.00 SuperCup (5231) 12.00m Rally (8910) 12.30m SuperCup
- GRANADA PLUS**  
 6.00am The Bill (142321) 7.00m Q&A (305952) 7.30m Coronation St (282927) 8.00m Drid Date (282927) 8.30m F&F (828436) 1.00m Close



Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt in Twister (Screen 2, 8.05pm)



Among Equals (6.00pm)



Rangers Zoo 3.00pm

- TRAVEL (CABLE)**  
 12.00m Rail: Walkabout, 20 Years Down The Track, 1.00pm Fall-Fronted, 1.30m Flavours Of France, 2.00m Travel The Best, 2.30m Flying Solo, 3.00m Railway Adventures Across Europe, 3.30m SuperCups, 4.00m Holiday Maker, 5.00m Pathfinder, 5.30m On Tour, 6.00m Moments Of, 6.30m From, 6.30m Travel The Best, 7.00m Travel The Best, 7.30m Travel The Best, 8.00m Travel The Best, 8.30m Travel The Best, 9.00m Travel The Best, 9.30m Travel The Best, 10.00m Travel The Best, 10.30m Travel The Best, 11.00m Travel The Best, 11.30m Travel The Best, 12.00m Travel The Best, 12.30m Travel The Best

- THE HISTORY CHANNEL**  
 4.00pm Arthur (810228) 5.00m The Magnificent Seven (810228) 6.00m Ancient Mysteries (319506) 7.00m And The Winner Is: Biography — Sidney Poitier (831668) 8.00m Close
- CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)**  
 9.00am Food Network Daily 9.30m Food for Thought, 10.00m Food for Thought, 10.30m Food for Thought, 11.00m Food for Thought, 11.30m Food for Thought, 12.00m Food for Thought, 12.30m Food for Thought, 1.00m Food for Thought, 1.30m Food for Thought, 2.00m Food for Thought, 2.30m Food for Thought, 3.00m Food for Thought, 3.30m Food for Thought, 4.00m Food for Thought, 4.30m Food for Thought, 5.00m Food for Thought, 5.30m Food for Thought, 6.00m Food for Thought, 6.30m Food for Thought, 7.00m Food for Thought, 7.30m Food for Thought, 8.00m Food for Thought, 8.30m Food for Thought, 9.00m Food for Thought, 9.30m Food for Thought, 10.00m Food for Thought, 10.30m Food for Thought, 11.00m Food for Thought, 11.30m Food for Thought, 12.00m Food for Thought, 12.30m Food for Thought

- DISNEY CHANNEL**  
 8.00am Under the Umbrella Tree, 8.30m Jungle Cubs, 9.00m Peppa Pig, 9.30m Peppa Pig, 10.00m Peppa Pig, 10.30m Peppa Pig, 11.00m Peppa Pig, 11.30m Peppa Pig, 12.00m Peppa Pig, 12.30m Peppa Pig
- CARTOON NETWORK**  
 All your favourite cartoon broadcast from 8.00pm to 8.00pm, seven days a week
- NICKELODEON**  
 6.00am Count Duckula, 6.30m Ren and Stimpy, 7.00m Angry Beavers, 7.30m Rugrats, 8.00m Rugrats, 8.30m Rugrats, 9.00m Rugrats, 9.30m Rugrats, 10.00m Rugrats, 10.30m Rugrats, 11.00m Rugrats, 11.30m Rugrats, 12.00m Rugrats, 12.30m Rugrats

- TROUBLE**  
 12.00m Saxon Crossing, 12.30pm Saxon Crossing, 1.00m Saxon Crossing, 1.30m Saxon Crossing, 2.00m Saxon Crossing, 2.30m Saxon Crossing, 3.00m Saxon Crossing, 3.30m Saxon Crossing, 4.00m Saxon Crossing, 4.30m Saxon Crossing, 5.00m Saxon Crossing, 5.30m Saxon Crossing, 6.00m Saxon Crossing, 6.30m Saxon Crossing, 7.00m Saxon Crossing, 7.30m Saxon Crossing, 8.00m Saxon Crossing, 8.30m Saxon Crossing, 9.00m Saxon Crossing, 9.30m Saxon Crossing, 10.00m Saxon Crossing, 10.30m Saxon Crossing, 11.00m Saxon Crossing, 11.30m Saxon Crossing, 12.00m Saxon Crossing, 12.30m Saxon Crossing

- HOME & LEISURE**  
 9.00pm Guy of Flanders, 9.30m Guy of Flanders, 10.00m Guy of Flanders, 10.30m Guy of Flanders, 11.00m Guy of Flanders, 11.30m Guy of Flanders, 12.00m Guy of Flanders, 12.30m Guy of Flanders
- DISCOVERY**  
 4.00pm Per Hunt Specials, 4.57m Per Hunt Specials, 5.00m Per Hunt Specials, 5.30m Per Hunt Specials, 6.00m Per Hunt Specials, 6.30m Per Hunt Specials, 7.00m Per Hunt Specials, 7.30m Per Hunt Specials, 8.00m Per Hunt Specials, 8.30m Per Hunt Specials, 9.00m Per Hunt Specials, 9.30m Per Hunt Specials, 10.00m Per Hunt Specials, 10.30m Per Hunt Specials, 11.00m Per Hunt Specials, 11.30m Per Hunt Specials, 12.00m Per Hunt Specials, 12.30m Per Hunt Specials

- ZEE TV**  
 6.00am Karan Pooch, 7.00m Jagran, 7.30m Zee World, 8.00m Zee World, 8.30m Zee World, 9.00m Zee World, 9.30m Zee World, 10.00m Zee World, 10.30m Zee World, 11.00m Zee World, 11.30m Zee World, 12.00m Zee World, 12.30m Zee World
- ANTONIA GEOGRAPHIC**  
 7.00pm Lord of the Animals, 8.00m Lord of the Animals, 9.00m Lord of the Animals, 10.00m Lord of the Animals, 11.00m Lord of the Animals, 12.00m Lord of the Animals
- BRavo**  
 8.00pm A-Team (527211) 9.00m Tour of Duty (527211) 10.00m Basement (274418) 11.00m Star Dates (235365) 11.30m Wild South (527211) 12.00m Sava Voz (235365)



